

Living the Resurrection

La Sierra University Church • Riverside, California • April 5 to May 1, 2008

Preparing

As the service begins with the organ prelude, you are invited to reflect on these sentences from True Resurrection by H. A. Williams:

Resurrection is always a mystery. It is always a miracle. It is always the creative act of the Eternal word. Because that Word is spoken now in the present in terms of what we call the common circumstances of life, there can be nobody who at some time or other has not thus been raised from the dead. But more often than not our eyes are holden and we do not know it. We do not recognize resurrection when it comes to us. The presence of the Eternal Word is unnoticed, and evidenced only in the new life made available; just as at Cana of Galilee the guests enjoyed the good wine but did not know whence it was.

Inviting

The pastor says:

The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior
who conquered death,
the love of God who delivered him from the grave,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
through whom he lives in us,
are with each of you today.

Please join in reading the bold-face type:

And also with you.

*The pastor may express our concerns
as a community of faith, and then pray:*

O God of resurrection life and power,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
**you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless
until they rest in you.**

Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose,

**so that no selfish passion may hinder us
from knowing your will,**

and no weakness may keep us from doing it;

**and that in your service
we may find our fulfillment.**

Fill us with new life as we worship in spirit and truth,
rejoicing in the miracle and mystery of resurrection.

Amen.

*Where possible, please stand to sing these words
to the tune of hymn 167 (Hyfrydol):*

**Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!
Yours the scepter, yours the throne.
Alleluia! Yours the triumph,
yours the victory alone!
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation
you've redeemed us by your blood.**

Please be seated.

Praying

The service leader and the people pray:

Eternal God, you raised Jesus from death to life
and crowned him Lord of all.

**We confess that too often we have served
ourselves instead of the risen Christ.**

We have gone along with the ways of the world,
and have failed to give him glory.

Forgive us, we pray, and heal us.

Raise us from our self-centeredness,
so that we may grow in your love.

We remember the resurrection of Jesus.

We look forward to the final resurrection
to everlasting life.

**We long for the experience of resurrection
in our present lives.**

Make us, we pray, agents of the creative goodness
that always brings life.

Amen.

The service leader then continues:

Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you
who are tired and carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.

**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,**

and you will find rest for your souls.”

**Receiving God’s acceptance and forgiveness,
we enter into spiritual rest and resurrection.**

The cantor sings another stanza to the tune of hymn 167:

Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! You are near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received you
when the forty days were o’er,
shall our hearts forget your promise,
“I am with you evermore”?

*After several moments of silent reflection,
the service leader may remind the congregation of
special blessings, needs, and concerns, and then says:*

I invite you to kneel and pray
for the church and the world
that are both God’s and ours.

God of resurrection power,
in your goodness you give us new life.

**Now we pray for the world you love
unconditionally and forever.**

You sent a Savior
to break down the walls of fear and hostility
that divide your human family.
Raise the world above the pride and resentment
that turn nation and races against each other.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Let us pray for peace—in our troubled world
and in human hearts everywhere.

Please pray in silence.

You teach us that we cannot love you
unless we love our neighbors.
Remove prejudice and suspicion from us and others,
so that we may be reconciled
with those from whom we may be estranged.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Let us pray for understanding—our own and others’.

Please pray in silence.

You bear the pain of the world
and experience with us our sufferings of mind
and body.

Bring comfort and healing as signs of your grace,
and remind your hurting sons and daughters
that they are never alone.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Let us pray for healing—for ourselves and for others.

Please pray in silence.

O God, whose Word we trust
and whose Spirit invites and enables us to pray,
hear our prayers, and answer them
in ways that fulfill your purposes in the world.

Amen.

Now let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come and your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from the evil one.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever.**

Amen.

Please be seated.

Listening

The first reader prays.

Pour out upon us, O God,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
so that our hearts and minds
may be open to your renewing
and empowering word.

Amen.

Listen for a word from God to you today
in the book of Acts, chapter __, verses __ to __.

After the reading:

This ends the reading.

Thanks be to God for these words.

*After several moments of silent reflection,
the pastor says:*

Please join me in reading responsively
from Psalm ____; as printed on the sheet
you received with your printed liturgy.

*After the responsive reading and several moments
of silent reflection, the second reader prays:*

We know, O God, that we do not live by bread alone,
but by the word of truth that comes from you.
Make us so eager for this heavenly food
that we seek it day after day.

Amen.

Listen for a word from God to you today in the
First Letter of Peter, chapter __, verses __ to __.

After the reading:

This ends the reading.

Thanks be to God for these words.

*After several moments of silent reflection,
the cantor sings these words to the tune of hymn 197
(Dominus Regit):*

Such perfect love my Shepherd shows,
whose goodness fails me never,
whose hand all things I need bestows
and cares for me forever.

Please join the cantor, singing quietly these words:

**Where streams of living water flow
my loving Shepherd leads me,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food from heaven feeds me.**

The service leader says:

I invite you to stand to hear the Gospel.

Guide us, O God, by your liberating Word
and empowering Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover peace.

Amen.

Listen for a word from God to you today from
the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to _____,
chapter __, verses __ to __.

After the reading:

The gospel of Jesus Christ!

Thanks be to God for the gospel.

Please be seated.

Giving

The service leader says:

Spiritual resurrection leads us to give
from thankful hearts,
so that God's love may be celebrated
and God's love extended.

**We give as we have decided in our hearts,
knowing that God loves cheerful givers.**

Because we want to share your grace with others,
we bring our love, our trust, our worship,
and these our other gifts.

Amen.

The offering is received.

Singing

After the offering, the cantor or the service leader says:

I invite you to stand and join in singing
hymn number _____.

Please remain standing after the hymn.

Considering

The homilist prays:

Nourish us today with your Word,
so that we may bear witness
to your resurrection power.

Amen.

Please be seated.

*The homilist briefly expounds the meaning
of one or more of the scripture readings.*

Affirming

*After several moments of silent reflection,
the service leader begins our affirmation of faith:*

You, O God, created the heavens and the earth,
and made humanity in your own image.

You established Sabbath time and made it holy.

You called prophets and rulers
to proclaim and enact justice.

You became human and lived with us—

announcing grace, breaking down barriers,

giving dignity to the despised and rejected.

You suffered with us and for us—

enacting your infinite and unconditional love.

**You called the church to proclaim
your resurrection power—**

loving all people, and overcoming evil with good.

You draw us toward our future—

presenting new challenges for action
and new opportunities for joy.

**We look forward to the redemption of history
and the ultimate triumph of love.**

*Where possible, please stand and join the cantor
in singing the first and third stanzas of hymn 182
(Truro):*

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing:
his cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring:
his love in death shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! Ascended Lord,
he rules the world his Father made,
till, in the end, his love adored
shall be to all on earth displayed.**

Please remain standing.

Blessing

The pastor says:

Knowing that you belong to God,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
and patience.

Forgive others as God has forgiven you,
and serve every day in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Knowing that resurrection life
is possible for you now and forever,
let its power encompass all you are and do,

Alleluia! Amen.

After the organ chimes, please be seated.

Reflecting

*Please remain in silent prayer and meditation
during the postlude.*

After the postlude, the pastor says:

Go in peace and joy.
Love and serve God in the name of the risen Christ
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Amen.

Scripture Readings for Coming Sabbaths

Resurrection Season

April 5	Acts 2:14a,36-41	<i>Psalm 116:1-4,12-19</i>	I Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-32,45-54
April 12	Acts 2:42-47	<i>Psalm 23</i>	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
April 19	Acts 7:55-60	<i>Psalm 31:1-6,15-16</i>	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-10
April 26	Acts 17:22-31	<i>Psalm 86:8-20</i>	1 Peter 3:123-22`	John 14:15-21
May 3	Acts 1:6-14	<i>Psalm 68:1-10,32-35</i>	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6l-11	John 17:1-11

Pentecost Sabbath

May 10	Numbers 11:24-30	<i>Psalm 104:24-34,35b</i>	Acts 2:1-21	John 7:37-39
--------	------------------	----------------------------	-------------	--------------

Trinity Sabbath

May 17	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	<i>Psalm 8</i>	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:18-20
--------	------------------	----------------	------------------------	------------------

Ordinary Time

May 24	Isaiah 49:8-16a	<i>Psalm 131</i>	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Matthew 8:24-34
May 31	Gen. 6:9-22; 7:24; 8:14-19	<i>Psalm 131</i>	Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28	Matthew 7:21-29
June 7	Genesis 12:1-9	<i>Psalm 33:1-12</i>	Romans 4:13-25	Matt. 9:9-13,18-25
