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RESURRECTION REVELATIONS

A WORSHIP SERIES
FOR THE EASTER SEASON

WORSHIP KIT

RESURRECTION

REVELATIONS

A WORSHIP SERIES
FOR THE EASTER SEASON

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RESURRECTION

REVELATIONS

A WORSHIP SERIES
FOR THE EASTER SEASON

About the Series

In this series of services for the weeks of the Easter Season, we will be taking a “detective’s look” at the story of Jesus’ resurrection. Over the course of this series, we will take an in-depth look at the details surrounding the resurrection. Each week we will focus on different facts related to the story of Jesus’ resurrection, addressed in sermons with dramas involving those who were present at the time of the first Easter and faithful believers. Weekly themes are the Martyrs, the Scriptures, the Trial, the Women, the Men and the Empty Tomb.

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A WORSHIP SERIES
FOR THE EASTER SEASON

Week 1: The Martyrs

Newsletter Notice

In our “Resurrection Revelations” worship series during the season of Easter we will be taking a “detective’s look” at the story of Jesus’ resurrection. Each week of the Easter season, we will focus on different facts related to the story of the resurrection on Easter. In Week 1 we will look at the martyrs, who boldly testified about the resurrection and gave their very lives for it.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to the first service in the “Resurrection Revelations” series for the season of Easter, in which we serve as detectives uncovering the evidence regarding the truth of the resurrection of Christ. In this worship service, we take a look at the role of the martyrs, who testified about the resurrection and gave their very lives for it.

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Week 2: The Scriptures

Newsletter Notice

In our “Resurrection Revelations” worship series during the season of Easter we will be taking a “detective’s look” at the story of Jesus’ resurrection. Each week of the Easter season, we will focus on different facts related to the story of the resurrection on Easter. In Week 2 we look at the words of Scripture that describe in great detail the events of the resurrection.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to the second service in the “Resurrection Revelations” series for the season of Easter, in which we serve as detectives uncovering the evidence regarding the truth of the resurrection of Christ. In this worship service, we take a look at the words of Scripture that describe in great detail the events of the resurrection.

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Week 3: The Trial

Newsletter Notice

In our “Resurrection Revelations” worship series during the season of Easter we will be taking a “detective’s look” at the story of Jesus’ resurrection. Each week of the Easter season, we will focus on different facts related to the story of the resurrection on Easter. In Week 3 we look at references to the resurrection in Jesus’ trial as he proclaims his identity as the Son of God.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to the third service in the “Resurrection Revelations” series for the season of Easter, in which we serve as detectives uncovering the evidence regarding the truth of the resurrection of Christ. In this worship service, we take a look at references to the resurrection in the trial of Jesus as he proclaims his identity as the Son of God.

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Week 4: The Women

Newsletter Notice

In our “Resurrection Revelations” worship series during the season of Easter we will be taking a “detective’s look” at the story of Jesus’ resurrection. Each week of the Easter season, we will focus on different facts related to the story of the resurrection on Easter. In Week 4 we look at the women who were named as the first eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Christ.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to the fourth service in the “Resurrection Revelations” series for the season of Easter, in which we serve as detectives uncovering the evidence regarding the truth of the resurrection of Christ. In this worship service, we take a look at the women who were named as the first eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Christ.

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Week 5: The Men

Newsletter Notice

In our “Resurrection Revelations” worship series during the season of Easter we will be taking a “detective’s look” at the story of Jesus’ resurrection. Each week of the Easter season, we will focus on different facts related to the story of the resurrection on Easter. In Week 5 we look at the men whose lives were changed by the resurrection of Christ.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to the fifth service in the “Resurrection Revelations” series for the season of Easter, in which we serve as detectives uncovering the evidence regarding the truth of the resurrection of Christ. In this worship service, we take a look at the men whose lives were changed by the resurrection of Christ.

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Week 6: The Empty Tomb

Newsletter Notice

In our “Resurrection Revelations” worship series during the season of Easter we will be taking a “detective’s look” at the story of Jesus’ resurrection. Each week of the Easter season, we will focus on different facts related to the story of the resurrection on Easter. In Week 6 we look at the empty tomb, the site where the body of Jesus no longer lies.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to the fourth service in the “Resurrection Revelations” series for the season of Easter, in which we serve as detectives uncovering the evidence regarding the truth of the resurrection of Christ. In this worship service, we take a look at the empty tomb, the site where the body of Jesus no longer lies.

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Week 1: The Martyrs

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Week 1: The Martyrs

Order of Service

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24

Opening Hymn..... Llanfair 77 77 77 and alleluias

Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Invocation (Isaiah 25:6-9)

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,

C **Of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.**

P And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.

C **He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.**

P It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.

C **This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."**

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, you have called us to be witnesses for our Lord Jesus Christ, to reflect his light in the world. We confess to you that so often we fail in our witness. We do not live as your servants. When we have the opportunity to speak of our Lord, we fall silent. Please forgive us for the sake of Jesus our Lord, and fill us with courage as witnesses to your love and grace.**

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to suffer the penalty of death for our sins. Jesus suffered, died and rose from the dead for us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed!**

Prayer of the Day

Hymn Gott Sei Dank 77 77

Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Everywhere his creatures call
To his heav'nly banquet hall.

Tell how God the Father's will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How his own dear Son he gave
Us from sin and death to save.

Children's Message

Hymn Gott Sei Dank 77 77

Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
Gave himself as sacrifice.

Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.

First Scripture Reading Philippians 1:19-26

Second Scripture Reading John 21:15-19

Sermon Hymn Sine Nomine 10 10 10 and alleluias

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Message

The Drama

Hymn of ResponseSine Nomine 10 10 10 and alleluias

Oh, may thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Apostles' Creed

P We confess our faith, the faith for which the apostles laid down their lives:

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Christ, who rose victorious for us,

C Let us live our lives for you.

Lord's Prayer

Service of Holy Communion

Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:14)

P Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed!

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn Lasst Uns Erfreuen 888 888 and alleluias

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones,
Raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

O higher than the cherubim,
More glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises: "Alleluia!"
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,
Most gracious, magnify the Lord:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
Ye patriarchs and prophets blest:
"Alleluia, alleluia!"
Ye holy Twelve, ye martyrs strong,
All saints triumphant, raise the song:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing:
"Alleluia, alleluia!"
To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

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Week 1: The Martyrs

Complete Script for Worship Leaders

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/jesus-leaving-empty-tomb-while-light-562717075?src=QU1hIUNs7i6f0ZjX5fdFJg-1-3>

- The **Theme Verse** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Llanfair 77 77 77 and alleluias:

Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
 Christians, hasten on your way: Alleluia!
 Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
 At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
 Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
 Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
 God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
 When contending death and life, Alleluia!
 Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
 All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
 Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

- An **Invocation** (Isaiah 25:6-9) is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,

C **Of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.**

P And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.

C **He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.**

☐ It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.

☑ **This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”**

- The **Confession** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

☐ Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

☑ **Almighty God, you have called us to be witnesses for our Lord Jesus Christ, to reflect his light in the world. We confess to you that so often we fail in our witness. We do not live as your servants. When we have the opportunity to speak of our Lord, we fall silent. Please forgive us for the sake of Jesus our Lord, and fill us with courage as witnesses to your love and grace.**

☐ God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to suffer the penalty of death for our sins. Jesus suffered, died and rose from the dead for us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Christ is risen!

☑ **He is risen indeed!**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor:

☐ Dear risen Lord, thank you for the testimony of those who went before us in the faith and gave their very lives for the sake of the gospel message that you died and rose again for our eternal salvation. Let us, too, testify of our faith in you and your resurrection in how we live our lives in love and service to you and your will for us as your followers. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gott Sei Dank 77 77:

Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Everywhere his creatures call
To his heav'nly banquet hall.

Tell how God the Father's will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How his own dear Son he gave
Us from sin and death to save.

- The **Children's Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ Boys and girls, we continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus in these weeks following Easter. During this Easter season, I would like you to pretend with me that we are detectives

looking for evidence of the resurrection of Jesus. There are many clues that tell us that Jesus rose from the dead.

One of those clues is the presence of martyrs. Martyrs are people who died for their faith in Jesus. When people in power over them said to deny Jesus and the resurrection or be killed, they would not do it. They would not turn their backs on Jesus, but gave their very lives for him. Because they knew Jesus' resurrection was real, they did not fear death. They died knowing that they would live with Jesus forever in heaven.

In honor of the martyrs who went before us, we can tell people that we believe in Jesus and his resurrection. We can be bold in our faith and say, "Jesus is arisen! He is alive for you and me!" to everyone we meet. We can celebrate that when we die, we will be in heaven with him forever. We will live with Jesus for all eternity, because he rose from the dead. Alleluia! Amen.

- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gott Sei Dank 77 77:

Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
Gave himself as sacrifice.

Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.

- The **First Scripture Reading**, Philippians 1:19-26, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

- The **Second Scripture Reading**, John 21:15-19, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Sine Nomine 10 10 and alleluias:

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

- **The Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Introduction

Ⓟ Grace, mercy and peace be to all from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen. Jesus once asked his disciples the question, “Who do you say that I am?” You see, Jesus had already done a lot of amazing things and many miracles and he had made some powerful claims about himself and who he was. But then he asked others, “What about you, who do you say that I am?”

From the moment Jesus asked that question, “Who do you say that I am?” the world can no longer look at Jesus neutrally. You have to say either Jesus is the Son of God, that he is who he said he is ... or he’s not.

No one will argue that Jesus was a real, historical man. There’s too much evidence for that.

He was a real man who lived in Palestine about 2,000 years ago. But there is a problem when people try and answer the question, “Who is Jesus?”

By the grace of God, the Church confidently proclaims that Jesus is God’s Son. He is the promised Savior sent to redeem the world. But others answer this question differently. Some people say that Jesus was a good teacher, a rabbi with a large following, just a simple philosopher who taught about peace and love, but he wasn’t God. That’s insane! That’s crazy! How on earth can anyone say he was God’s Son?

There are only two ways to answer Jesus’ question. You can either say he is who he said he was, or he’s not. He’s someone else. That’s our mission for this series of worship services. We will be investigating why the Church says Jesus really is who he said he is.

Our first piece of evidence comes from the deaths of the first apostles, the early Christian martyrs. You may be thinking, “How do the deaths of the early apostles show that Jesus really was the Son of God?”

There are people who say that Jesus was a real person, but that he didn’t perform any miracles and he certainly didn’t rise from the dead. These are just stories and myths devised by the apostles for a few reasons, maybe to gather a huge following or to gain power in their community. Or perhaps they just really wanted to believe that Jesus wasn’t dead and he was alive with them. Now, if this theory is true, and the disciples made it all up, that Jesus rose from the dead, then why would they all be willing to die for a lie? Why would they all be willing to die for a story they made up?

In our reading from John 21, Jesus tells Peter that the apostle will die for his faith one day; Peter is going to be crucified. According to tradition, Peter was crucified upside down, because he said he was unworthy to die in the same way Jesus did. In the scene we’re about to see, Peter is in prison, awaiting his death. Like many early Christians, the apostle was imprisoned for claims he made about Jesus, especially the claim that Jesus rose from the dead. Instead of taking back what he said, Peter remained committed to the truth he had seen with his own eyes.

- **The Drama** is delivered by 2 male actors, with a conclusion by the pastor:

Characters: Simon Peter (P) and Roman Centurion (C)

Summary: As Peter awaits his sentence in prison, he prays and reminisces about his journey with Jesus. Peter recalls the highs and the lows, and asks that the Lord would give him the strength to face whatever comes his way. A Roman centurion periodically walks by and asks about Peter’s prayer. Peter shares with him that he is praying to Jesus, the man who was raised from the dead. The soldier is skeptical and believes Peter and the apostles made up the story. After more dialogue, the centurion begins to see that Peter may actually be right.

P (*Sitting and praying somberly*) Oh Jesus, how I miss you. We've come a long way, you and I. Or, well, actually, I have come a long way, and you helped me get there. I'll never forget the day I first met you. It began as just a normal day for me. Andrew and I were going to the water to fish as we always did, we were casting our nets over the side of the boat. Then you came along and told us to follow you. You said, "Drop the nets, and follow me." (*Peter stands and begins to slowly pace around.*) I didn't find you, Jesus; you found me. It's almost like I had this big, empty hole in my heart that you filled that day. I never expected to live such a meaningful and special life. I always thought I would just be a simple fisherman. Not even in my wildest dreams would I have imagined that God's own Son would call me to follow him, and then tell other people about his love for them. (*Peter sits back down.*)

C (*rushes in as Peter sits down*) Hey! What's going on in here? Who are you talking to? Is someone else in here?

P (*speaking calmly and collected*) No one is in here but me. I'm just praying.

C Praying, huh? Yea, we get a lot of that in here.

P Has the news come out on my verdict?

C I haven't heard anything yet, but whatever you did, I think you're in for it. The Emperor wants this cell on extreme lockdown. Look, I don't care if you go back to praying, just keep it down, all right? (*Centurion exits.*)

P Well, Lord, it looks like the end is near. But you know what, Jesus? I'm thankful you've called me to suffer for you. But it is still so hard to understand—why you would be willing to suffer for me, why you love me so much at all. I've done nothing to deserve this love from you! (*Peter stands up and begins to pace around again.*)

I denied you. I denied I had ever known you or followed you or loved you. Three times people asked me if I knew you. They said, "C'mon, I know you were with Jesus, I saw you, your accent gives you away." And all three times I denied you. Some disciple I was (getting more worked up). I even promised you, in front of the others, "Lord, these men will all fall away, but not me, I will be there until the very end!" And then that rooster crowed and I knew you were right, you were right about everything. All I can say is thank you. Thank you for your love and grace. I may not understand it, but I cherish your love with everything I have!

C (*rushes in again*) Hey! I thought I told you to keep it down in here!

P You did. I'm sorry; I'll try to be quieter.

C (*Starts to walk away, after a few steps and then hesitantly turns around.*) Can I ask you something?

P Go ahead.

C Who are you praying to? I hear a lot of people pray in here, but I've never heard anyone pray like you before. You talk to your God like you're talking to a friend.

P Well, he is my friend. I follow Jesus.

C Jesus? Um, wait, yea, I think I've heard of him. Isn't he that "innocent" man Pontius Pilate crucified?

P Yea, that's him.

C People have said a lot about this man Jesus. Some even believe he rose from the dead. What do you believe?

P He did rise from the dead. I saw him.

C Really? You really believe someone could rise from the dead? Well, I'm not buying it. I've crucified a lot of people, and no one could ever come back to life after a death like that.

P Well, if he didn't rise from the dead, why do people say he did?

C You know what I think? Apparently Jesus had a close group of followers when he died. I wonder if this group made it all up.

P Why would they do that?

C I don't know, maybe for power, maybe it was to gather a huge following, or maybe they just want to believe that their leader isn't dead and he's still with them.

P You know that close group of followers you mentioned? Well, I was one of them. Do you really want to know why I'm here? It's because I saw Jesus alive after he died, and I refuse to take back the truth.

C You were one of them?! So that's why you're here. Listen, I have something to tell you. You're here to die. I don't know how, but the Emperor wants to kill you for what you're saying about Jesus. Look, if you really want to live, all you have to do is take back what you said about Jesus.

P *(shakes his head and quietly laughs)* That's not going to happen.

C *(getting worked up)* Are you kidding? Listen, even if you really believe this guy rose from the dead, just say you made it up. You'll get to walk out of here alive!

P What don't you understand? I didn't make this up and I'm not taking it back! Don't you think I

realize my life would be a lot easier without carrying this burden? Don't you think I know that if I take back what I said I'll walk out of here alive? My testimony is true. I know what I saw.

C *(brief pause)* How many people have died for saying Jesus rose from the dead?

P Many—I'm not the first, and I certainly won't be the last either. If we really did make this up, if this is all a big lie, why would we all be willing to die for it?

C *(puts his hand to his ear)* Wait a second, I hear the officials calling, I have to go. *(he begins to walk away)*

P They're going to tell you to crucify me. That's how I'm going to die. *(the centurion stops and turns around)*

C You're going to be crucified? How do you know that?

P Jesus told me one day on a beach; it was after he rose. *(the centurion leaves, then Peter sits back down to pray)* Lord, give me the strength. The time has finally come. I know I will be with you again. It's like Paul has said, "To live is Christ and to die is gain."

(The centurion returns.)

C You were right. You are going to be crucified. I'm supposed to take you there now. *(Peter stands up and the centurion takes his arm)*

P I do have one request. Would you crucify me upside down? My Lord was crucified for me, and I'm not worthy to die the same way. *(the centurion and Peter start to exit)*

C *(pausing)* If I can, I will do as you ask. You really aren't afraid to die, are you? You know, maybe there is something to what you say about this Jesus ... crucified and risen from the dead ...

Conclusion

☐ Church tradition says that Peter did not shy away from his death. From the moment Jesus told him on that beach one morning, he knew what his destiny was. Peter was going to die for following Jesus, but that didn't stop him sharing the good news that Christ had risen from the dead!

The fear of death didn't stop the other apostles either. After Judas' death, eleven of the original disciples remained. From the early traditions of the church, we hear the same stories. Out of these eleven men, John was the only one to die a natural death. One church historian says that Peter's brother Andrew was beaten and then tied, rather than nailed, to an X-shaped cross so that he would suffer longer. But while he was on that cross, he allegedly preached the good

news of Jesus to people who passed by. The apostle Thomas, famously known as “doubting” Thomas, spread Christianity as far as India, where he was killed for angering the local religious authorities.

The list of martyrdom goes on. Some apostles died by crucifixion, some were beheaded and some were stabbed to death. But they didn’t reject their faith. They never took back what they said about Jesus. They had walked with Jesus, they saw his miracles and, most importantly, they saw him after he rose from the dead.

These early apostles became the first of many Christian martyrs. The word *martyr* actually comes from the Greek word meaning “to witness.” By their deaths these martyrs witnessed the truth about Jesus, that he was God’s Son, sent to save the world.

If this was all a lie about Jesus, then why did none of the original disciples take it back? Why did they stay committed to their story even in the face of terrible, agonizing deaths? Because they saw with their own eyes and touched with their own hands their Savior Jesus. They saw his power firsthand and they knew not even death could get in the way of our God. They remained committed to Jesus because they knew Jesus was committed to them. Jesus hung on the cross, alone and in agony—and he stayed. He stayed on the cross to die for the sins of the entire world, including the sins of these same disciples, these alleged “best friends” who abandoned him when he needed them most. No matter what you do or how many times you fail, know that Jesus is committed to you through it all. He hung on the cross and he stayed there for you. He rose from the dead and one day you too will see him face to face, as his apostles did.

We know about the harshness of death. Maybe you yourself have lost a loved one this year, or you know those who lost someone this year. You realize that, one day, death will come to you as well. But when we think about death, it’s important to remember Paul’s words: “To live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Just like those disciples so many centuries ago, we know who Jesus is and what he came to do. He came to die on the cross, taking onto himself the punishment for our sins. But that is not the end of the story. He rose from the dead and sealed our future. Yes, we will we die, but on the Last Day we will rise up from death to meet our Savior face to face. Our life on earth is great; it’s a time to serve others as Jesus has served us—but that’s just the beginning! When he rose from the dead, that’s when our life really began. The disciples died for the truth of that good news, and that is what we celebrate today. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Amen.

- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Sine Nomine 10 10 10 and alleluias:

Oh, may thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
 Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
 And win with them the victor's crown of gold!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

- **The Apostles' Creed** is introduced by the pastor and read by the congregation:

P We confess our faith, the faith for which the apostles laid down their lives:

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- The **Offering** is collected at this time.
- The **Prayers** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Christ, who rose victorious for us,

C **Let us live our lives for you.**

+

P O Risen Lord, we come to you today rejoicing in your resurrection revelations, made known to us to give us the confidence in our faith in you. Thank you for Simon Peter and other martyrs of the faith, who paved the way for us to receive the truth of the gospel that you died and were raised to bring eternal life to us all. Christ, who rose victorious for us,

C **Let us live our lives for you.**

P Give to those who preach your Word, O Christ, the power of your Holy Spirit to proclaim your name with strength and certainty. Grant to all pastors and teachers the ability to make your message of forgiveness, life and salvation through your death and resurrection clear to all those who hear it that your Word of truth may spread to more and more people. Christ, who

rose victorious for us,

C Let us live our lives for you.

P Lord of the nations, support us in our efforts in our church bodies to testify to the world of your love through mission and evangelism teams. Raise within the hearts of all missionaries near and far the fervor and fire to set the hearts of unbelievers on fire with faith in you. And in our outreach to those in our neighborhoods, may we be beacons of hope and new life that those in our communities may be drawn to your houses of faith and worship. Christ, who rose victorious for us,

C Let us live our lives for you.

P Help us, caring Christ, to be your servants in this world that we might show others your grace and mercy through all that we say and all that we do. May we always be able to reveal to those around us the hope we have within us that only comes from you. Let our very lives be a testament to the power of your new life at work in the lives of all believers. Christ, who rose victorious for us,

C Let us live our lives for you.

P Be with those, dear Lord, who are facing death, that they may find peace in the knowledge that they too shall rise to be with you in the mansions above, as you rose from the grave on the third day alive, triumphant over death and hell forevermore. May those who are grieving the loss of loved ones be comforted as well by this uplifting news. Christ, who rose victorious for us,

C Let us live our lives for you.

P In all our activities during this season of Easter, may the revelations of the resurrection of Christ guide what we say and do in his name. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- The **Lord's Prayer** is spoken in unison.
- The **Service of Holy Communion**, if desired, is conducted, according to local custom.

- The **Benediction** (2 Corinthians 13:14) is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed!

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Lasst Uns Erfreuen* 888 888 and alleluias:

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones,
Raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

O higher than the cherubim,
More glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises: "Alleluia!"
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,
Most gracious, magnify the Lord:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
Ye patriarchs and prophets blest:
"Alleluia, alleluia!"
Ye holy Twelve, ye martyrs strong,
All saints triumphant, raise the song:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing:
"Alleluia, alleluia!"
To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

RESURRECTION

REVELATIONS

A WORSHIP SERIES
FOR THE EASTER SEASON

Week 1: The Martyrs

Music Guide

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The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It contains four measures of music, primarily using chords and some eighth-note patterns. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, starting with a measure rest labeled '1'. It contains four measures of music, primarily using chords and some eighth-note patterns.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff continues from the first system with four measures of music. The lower staff starts with a measure rest labeled '5' and contains four measures of music.

The third system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff continues with four measures of music. The lower staff starts with a measure rest labeled '9' and contains four measures of music.

The fourth system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff continues with four measures of music. The lower staff starts with a measure rest labeled '13' and contains four measures of music.

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Llanfair 77 77 77 and alleluias:

Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way: Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Creative
Communications
Sample

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both are in common time (C). The music begins with a first-measure rest (1) in both staves. The melody in the treble clef starts on G4, moving to A4, B4, and C5 in the first measure, then to B4, A4, and G4 in the second measure. The bass line consists of chords: G2-B2-D2, A2-C2-E2, and B1-D1-F1 in the first measure, and G2-B2-D2, A2-C2-E2, and B1-D1-F1 in the second measure.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both are in common time (C). The music begins with a fifth-measure rest (5) in both staves. The melody in the treble clef starts on G4, moving to A4, B4, and C5 in the first measure, then to B4, A4, and G4 in the second measure. The bass line consists of chords: G2-B2-D2, A2-C2-E2, and B1-D1-F1 in the first measure, and G2-B2-D2, A2-C2-E2, and B1-D1-F1 in the second measure.

Creative
Communications
Sample

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gott Sei Dank 77 77:

Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Everywhere his creatures call
To his heav'nly banquet hall.

Tell how God the Father's will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How his own dear Son he gave
Us from sin and death to save.

- The **Children's Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader.
- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gott Sei Dank 77 77:

Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
Gave himself as sacrifice.

Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.