

East Palmyra Christian Reformed Church  
Lord's Day Devotions  
April 12, 2020 – Easter Sunday

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

**Psalm 124:8:**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**Scripture of Praise (Psalm 118:19-25):**

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(Song: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" #182 in the red hymnal and #356 in the blue Psalter-Hymnal)

**Prayer for God's Blessing:**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**The Reading of God's Law (Read Deuteronomy 5:6-21)**

**Confession of Sins:**

Almighty God, who is rich in mercy to all those who call upon You; hear us as we come to You humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, and imploring Your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken Your holy

laws by our deeds and by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before You our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness; and all our failures and shortcomings toward You and toward our fellow men. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; and of Your great goodness grant that we may hereafter serve and please You in newness of life; through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**God's Promise of Forgiveness (Romans 4:25):**

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

**Psalm of Thanksgiving (Read Psalm 103)**

**Heidelberg Catechism: Q/A #45**

How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death. Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life. Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.

**Prayer for God's Blessing on the Hearing of His Word:**

Blessed Lord, who has caused Holy Scripture to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear, read, learn, and inwardly digest them, that through the comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Scripture Readings:**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Old Testament Reading: | Psalm 22:22-31                           |
| New Testament Reading: | Matthew 28:1-10<br>1 Corinthians 15:1-28 |

**Message:**

"The Empty Tomb" Pastor Saville

(This message is available on the church website, our Facebook page or on CD)

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

1. Thanksgiving to God for the resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ.
2. Thanksgiving to God for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.
3. Thanksgiving to God for his mercies and provision.
4. Pray for the COVID-19 Pandemic:
  - for those suffering from the virus throughout the world.
  - for those who have lost family members and loved ones.
  - for the medical workers in our hospitals.
  - for the leaders in the U.S. and other nations who are making difficult decisions about how best to handle the situation.
  - that the Lord would bring this pandemic to an end.
  - for those whose livelihoods are being affected.
  - that we would not fear but trust the Lord.
  - that God would be glorified and that good would come through our present circumstances.
  - that congregations like our own would soon be able to meet again safely.
5. Pray for the preaching of the gospel and the gathering of Christ's Church from all the nations.
6. Pray for the persecuted church.
7. Pray for our national, state, and local leaders.
8. Pray for our local community
  - for East Palmyra Christian School (principal, teachers, families) as they cope with the challenges of COVID-19 (eg. families losing jobs, changes to fundraising plans).
  - for families who have lost jobs and are being affected in other ways.

- for other local congregations as they seek to do the Lord's work in these challenging times.
- for the Family Promise ministry.

9. Pray for the needs of our congregation:  
(Please see the Congregational Prayers in the announcements section)

10. Close with the Lord's Prayer

### **Closing Psalm (Read Psalm 98)**

(Song: "Low in the Grave He Lay" #186 in the red hymnal and #357 in the blue Psalter-Hymnal)

### **Closing Prayer**

Almighty God, who has promised to hear the petitions of those who pray in Your Son's name, we ask You mercifully to incline Your ear to us, who have now made our prayers and supplications to You. Grant that those things that we have faithfully asked, according to Your will, may be obtained, to the relief of our needs and to the setting forth of Your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**Offering:** Though we are unable to collect an offering in worship we are encouraging our church family to continue supporting our congregation's ministry in the coming days.

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