

Worship Resource 2018

Prepared by Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." –Psalm 118:22–23

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6–9

Psalter: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Gospel Reading: John 20:1–18

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 118 and John 20)

This is the day the LORD has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day that Mary saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day that the "other disciple" went into the tomb, saw, and believed.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day that the angels ask, "Why are you weeping?"

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day that Mary announces, "I have seen the Lord!"

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Let us worship our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Opening Prayer (Based on Psalm 118)

O LORD we give you thanks, for you are good! Your steadfast love endures forever. You are our strength and our might, and we lift up songs of victory in your name. You have opened up the gates of heaven to us, and you have made us righteous so that we can enter through them. You have answered our prayers and become our salvation. You have done all of this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. In Christ's name. **Amen.**

Call to Confession (Based on Isaiah 25:6–9)

Our brokenness and sin casts a shroud over our relationships with each other and with God. Our sin leads us to tears we would not otherwise cry, and to disgrace we would not otherwise feel. We serve a God, however, who wipes away tears, takes away disgrace, and forgives all sin. With confidence in this God, let us confess our sins.

Confession of Sin (Based on John 20)

O God, we often focus on the humdrum narratives of our own lives, rather than the great good news of the resurrection. We forget that you have conquered sin and death, and settle instead for a perspective that never moves above the horizon. We are slow to bring your good news to our brothers and sisters. Forgive us for our limited point of view, and equip us again to become resurrection people who seek to repair the breaches we see in society around us. In Christ's name. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness (Based on Isaiah 25:6–9)

Friends, hear the good news! We have waited for God, so that God might save us. The LORD upon whom we have waited has come to us in Jesus Christ, whose resurrection power conquered death and swallows up sin and death forever. Believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Call to Offering (Based on 1 Corinthians 15:1–11)

By the grace of God, we are who we are, and God's grace toward us has not been in vain. In gratitude for all God has done for us in Jesus Christ, let us give back to God now through our tithes and offerings, remembering especially to lift up what we are giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Prayer of Dedication (Based on 1 Corinthians 15:1–11)

O Lord Jesus Christ, we have so much to be thankful for. Just as the scriptures had foretold, you died for our sins and then you were raised on the third day. You have shown us grace, again and again. Take now these gifts and multiply them, for your work in your world. We pray in Christ's name. **Amen.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table (based on Isaiah 25:6–9)

Centuries before Jesus came into this world, the prophet Isaiah told us that the LORD of hosts would make for all people a feast of rich food and well-aged wines. And with that feast, he would swallow up death forever. At just the right time, Jesus Christ came and hosted that very meal—a simple meal with a profound result. With that meal, with his death, and with his resurrection, Jesus made Isaiah's promise come true. He swallowed up death, forever. Jesus invites us who put our trust in him to this table, now.

Prayer after Communion (Based on John 20)

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for being present in this meal. With Mary Magdalene at the tomb, we can say, "I have seen the Lord" Thanks be to God! Amen.

Charge and Blessing

Christ Is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Chris is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always, Amen.

