***THE EASTER CODE***

**Lenten Worship Series – Easter SonRise**

***Code Word:* Relief**

**April 9, 2023**

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**S  Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. Sermon manuscripts are included as a *sample* and not to be preached verbatim. |

**[*Project* “Easter SonRise.QRCode”***(in Graphics file)* ***or below words on screen as people enter*]**

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| ***Code Word:* Relief**  ***The empty tomb gives hope from the brokenness of the world***  ***and gives relief to all who believe.*** |

**Call to Worship:**

It is important to remember that at the end of Lent stands a tomb. From the moment he was born, Jesus was marching to his death. But death was not his defeat, because death was not the end of the story of the Messiah Jesus. The Messiah had come. In his perfectly righteous life, he had conquered sin, but that was not enough. The hope of humanity hung on the question of whether or not he had the power to defeat the ultimate enemy, death. The empty tomb was a glorious answer to that question. The empty tomb is a promise that God will never leave his redemptive work half done.

Today our code word is relief. Jesus’ resurrection means the whole world can experience *relief*

from fear and despair. He rose from the dead, giving hope from the brokenness of the world and giving *relief* to all who believe.

(*Journey to the Cross*, pp. 39-40)

**[*Put reading below on screen.*]**

**Leader:** He is Risen!

**All:** He is risen indeed!

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| **SB#228/SS#182 – Low in the grave he lay (Up from the Grave He Arose)** | TB-905 – same  SS-182 | No HT CD |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#379/HC#78/SS#44 – Lord, I lift Your name on high** | TB-948 – You came from Heaven to earth  HC-78  SS-44 | No HT CD  HCD6-T18 |
| **HC#204 – See, What a Morning** | HC-204 | HCD19-T14 |
| **HC#209 – Come People of the Risen King** | HC-209 | HCD19-T19 |
| **HC#294 – Glorious Day** | HC-294 | HCD28-T14 |
| **SB#139 – He came to give us life** | TB-645 – same | No HT CD |
| **SB#218/HC#233/SS#181 – Christ the Lord is risen today** | TB-248 – Easter Hymn  HC-233  SS-181 | HTD3-T9 (4 vs.)  HCD22-T13 |
| **SB#276 – Thine is the glory** | TB-746 – Maccabeus | No HT CD |

**Invocation**

***Jesus is Risen***

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-10**

[Scripture can be read by one person, split up into a responsive reading, or as a “readers’ theater using *The Voice* version - <https://www.biblegateway.com/> ]

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| **HC#204 – See, What a Morning** | HC-204 | HCD19-T14 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#379/HC#78/SS#44 – Lord, I lift Your name on high** | TB-948 – You came from Heaven to earth  HC-78  SS-44 | No HT CD  HCD6-T18 |
| **SB#466/HC#105/SS#32 – I stand amazed in the presence (How Marvelous)** | TB-769 – My Savior’s love  HC-105  SS-32 | HTD10-T8 (4 vs.)  HCD9-T15 |
| **SB#861/HC#149/SS#41 – In Christ alone** | TB-132 – same  HC-149  SS-41 | No HT CD  HCD13-T19 |
| **SB#243/HC#164 – Before the throne of God above** | TB-52 – same  HC-164 | No HT CD  HCD15-T14 |
| **HC#209 – Come People of the Risen King** | HC-209 | HCD19-T19 |
| **HC#294 – Glorious Day** | HC-294 | HCD28-T14 |
| **SB#139 – He came to give us life** | TB-645 – same | No HT CD |
| **SB#276 – Thine is the glory** | TB-746 – Maccabeus | No HT CD |

***Resurrection Life***

**Reading:**

**Reader 1:** During this season, more than any other, we focus on and contemplate the shocking, cruel death of the only perfect person who ever lived. Death is the motif of this season of remembrance. It is the motif not just because of the death of Jesus, but because, during this season, we hear again another call to die. Death is required of every follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Knowing the full range of the benefits of the new life that the resurrection of Jesus promises us *requires that we too die*. In the gospel we come to understand that death is the inescapable pathway to life. Consider these passages:

**Reader 2:** **23**Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23, NIV)

**Reader 3:** **35**For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. (Mark 8:35, NIV)

**Reader 1:** **24**Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (John 12:24, NIV)

**Reader 2:** **20**I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20, NIV)

**Reader 3:** **24**“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” (1 Peter 2:24, NIV)

**Reader 1:** **31**I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:31, NIV)

**Reader 2:** **1**Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. (Romans 12:1, NIV)

**Reader 3:** The gospel offers you something that nothing and no one else can offer: life. But in offering life, the gospel calls you to die. That death is both an event and a process. By God’s redeeming plan we are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. In that way your moment of belief is a death and a resurrection. But there is more. Now that you are united with Christ, you are called to a very specific surrender, that is, dying to self. You simply cannot understand the gospel without this call to follow Christ in his death. We are called to die to sin.

(*Journey to the Cross*, pp. 40-42)

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| **SB#222 – He is Lord** | TB-649 – same | No HT CD |

**Resurrection Prayers/Pastoral Prayer**

**Message – *Code Word:* Relief**

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| **SB#565/HC#89/SS#43 – All I once held dear (Knowing You)** | TB-725 – same  HC-89  SS-43 | No HT CD  HCD7-T19 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#201/HC#137/SS#66 – Thank you for the cross, Lord (Worthy Is the Lamb)** | TB-947 – same  HC-137  SS-66 | No HT CD  HCD12-T17 |
| **SB#204/HC#5/SS#27 – There is a redeemer** | TB-881 – same  HC-5  SS-27 | No HT CD  HCD1A-T15 |
| **SB#222 – He is Lord** | TB-649 – same | No HT CD |
| **SB#439/HC#139 – There is a message** | TB-879 – same  HC-139 | No HT CD  HCD12-T19 |
| **SB#376/HC#219 – King of kings, majesty** | TB-722 – same  HC-219 | No HT CD  HCD20-T19 |
| **HC#205 – Closer Still** | HC-205 | HCD19-T15 |
| **SB#699/HC#207/SS#88 – Every promise we can make (Grace Alone)** | TB-640 – same  HC-207  SS-88 | No HT CD  HCD19-T17 |
| **HC#226 – I Worship You** | HC-226 | HCD21-T16 |
| **HC#253 – Jesus Paid it All** | HC-253 | HCD24-T13 |

**Benediction:**

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

([Hebrews 13:20-21](http://www.christianity.com/bible/search/?ver=niv&q=hebrews+13%3a20-21), ESV)

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| **SB#861/HC#149/SS#41 – In Christ alone** | TB-132 – same  HC-149  SS-41 | No HT CD  HCD13-T19 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#89/HC#161/SS#48 – O for a thousand tongues to sing (My Great Redeemer’s Praise)** | TB-59 – Azmon  TB-75 – Grimsby  HC-161  SS-48 | HTD3-T4 (4 vs.)  No HT CD  HCD15-T11 |
| **SB#358/HC#241/SS#30 – Crown Him with many crowns** | TB-162 – Diademata  HC-241  SS-30 | HTD1-T8 (4 vs.)  HCD23-T11 |
| **HC#128 – My Tribute** | HC-128 | HCD11-T18 |

**Announcements**

***THE EASTER CODE***

**Lenten Sermon – Easter SonRise**

***Code Word:* Relief**

**April 9, 2023**

**By Major Peter Mount**

**TITLE: *Code Word:* Relief**

**THEME: The Resurrection**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:1-10**

**INTRODUCTION**

Have you ever been expecting one thing, but received something completely different?

Have you ever been somewhere or attended an event, and then been pleasantly surprised about what you found?

This is the experience of what we find in our scripture for this morning.

**POINT(S)**

I invite you to turn to Matthew 28 in your Bibles.

As you've heard already today, our code word is Relief. It's important, as we share in this passage this morning, to take ourselves all the way back to that very first morning after the Sabbath:

**Matthew 28:1 [Read]**

On the first morning they went to look at the tomb with no relief in sight! Death was real for them, and they were going to the tomb expecting only what they had experienced before after someone had died.

Let’s look at **verse 2**:

**Matthew 28:2 [Read]**

There was a violent earthquake—that sounds familiar! This is exactly what happened on Friday when Jesus died. There was a violent earthquake and, again, the power of God produced this earthquake, which summoned an angel of the Lord to come down from Heaven and roll back the tombstone, where he sat on it. The power of Jesus as He arose affected all of creation and that same power is available to us today – WOW!

Let’s look at verse 5:

**Matthew 28:5 [Read]**

The angel’s words to the women are very strange: *“Do not be afraid.”* Using your sanctified imagination, picture the scene:

These grieving women—expecting nothing out of the ordinary—happen upon a glowing angel amidst a violent earthquake; an empty tomb; and two guards frozen that look like dead men. I would say that these women had good reason to be afraid! The angel, however, is not concerned with the temporal, but the eternal. The words, “do not be afraid,” have far more to do with the resurrected Jesus not being in the tomb and the hope this brings, than the immediate and strange events they are witnessing with their eyes.

The angel acknowledges why the women are there (v. 5): “I know that you are looking for Jesus.” He assures them that relief has come from their loss, grief, and pain, because they are now the first to know about the risen Jesus and are told to go and share the good news!

**Matthew 28:6-8 [Read]**

That moment changed their lives, their world, and their everything! And not just for the women, but the disciples and even us today! That moment and every moment since, Jesus has the power to turn grief, loss, hurt, trauma, pain, and sadness, into relief through joy, gladness and Spirit-filled happiness.

The other amazing impact that this moment of relief had upon humankind was that it did not just affect the lives of the women that day, but all whom they told! The disciples who were hiding in fear at this point were also relieved and overjoyed. They, embraced, kneeled and worshipped Jesus the resurrected Savior and King as He appeared to them in **verses 9 and 10**:

**Matthew 28:9-10 [Read]**

**CHALLENGE**

What is it today that you need relief from?

What or where do you need Jesus to intervene?

He is here this morning – what relief do you need Him to bring into your life so that you can fully embrace and worship Him?