

READINGTON REFORMED CHURCH

Cathy Gumpert, Pastor

John Ayer, Music Director

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

March 23, 2008

7:30 a.m.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

Call to Worship

Psalm 118:1, 2; 14-24

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; His steadfast love endures forever!

People: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Leader: The LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.

People: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

Leader: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

People: The LORD has punished me severely, but He did not give me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

Leader: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

People: I thank You that You have answered me and have become my salvation.

Leader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

People: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

ALL: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn of Praise

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

EASTER HYMN

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!

Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia! Where the angel's ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!

Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Psalm 118:1, 2; 14-24

Almighty and merciful God, we gather together to give thanks to You, and to praise Your holy name! Your steadfast love endures forever, protecting us, redeeming us, giving us salvation, not because we are so good, but because You are so good. Your steadfast love does endure forever. Thank You for that, because we can be so careless in our response. We forget to love You with all of our hearts and minds and souls and strength. We forget to love our neighbors as ourselves. The world crowds in and we are overwhelmed. We are sorry. Thank You for giving us a strong Rock to plant our feet on. Hold us in the palm of Your hand, even as You send us out into this lost and broken world to do Your will here, on earth, just as it already is in heaven. In this way, we can further Your kingdom, until Jesus comes again. We ask this in His strong Name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Jeremiah 36:24-28

Summary of the Law

John 15:12-18

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn of Preparation

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Lord I lift Your name on high, Lord I love to sing Your praises.

I'm so glad You're in my life, I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,

From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;

Lord I lift Your name on high.

(Repeat)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament

Jeremiah 23:1-8

p. 633

New Testament

Luke 24: 1-12

p. 860

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

THE ROAD GOES EVER EVER ON

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father, Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

“Amazing Grace”

NEW BRITAIN

Amazing grace! (How sweet the sound!) that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Dedication of Gifts

Prayers of the Community and The Lord’s Prayer

Hymn of Dedication

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love,
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

*Benediction

Benediction Response

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, every blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.