

March 27, 2016
Easter Sunday

Preparation for Worship – Please use this time for silent preparation of heart
and mind for worship of the Almighty God.

Preludes - “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” arr. Healey Willan
Excerpt from “Judas Maccabaeus” G.F. Handel

Announcements

Choral Introit

*Call to Worship (From various texts including Ephesians 2, 1 Corinthians 15, Revelation 1)

Minister: Christ is risen!

Congregation: The Lord is risen indeed!

Minister: Glory, and honor, dominion and power, be to our God
for ever and ever!

Congregation: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Minister: God has made us alive with Christ!

Congregation: Death has been swallowed up in victory!

Unison: Grace and peace to you from Him who is, and who was,
and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,
and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn
from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

*Invocation

*Lord’s Prayer

*Hymn - “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” #277

Word of Greeting – Please take a moment to greet one another with the historic
Christian testimony: “The Lord is risen!” “The Lord is risen indeed!”
Afterwards, pass the Friendship Registers found on the right end of each row.

The Resurrection in the Gospels – John 20:1-18 p. 906 in Pew Bible
Easter Confession of Sin (Unison)

Almighty God,

Because of our daily sin against You we have no right to any of the
countless good things in this life. We certainly have no right to enjoy
an eternal life of Your blessings. By our sin, we justly deserve to be
cut off from Your presence.

But through Your Son You overcame death and opened to us the
gate of everlasting life. Grant that we who celebrate our Lord’s
resurrection may, through Your Holy Spirit, count ourselves dead to
sin but alive to God in Christ, who lives and reigns now and evermore.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Unison)

“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life
for our justification.” Romans 4:25

The Resurrection in the Epistles – 1 Corinthians 15:12-28

p. 961 in Pew Bibles

Morning Prayer

*Hymn – “Up from the Grave He Arose” #276

*Confession of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed p. 845 in Trinity Hymnal

*Doxology #731

*Offering

Offertory Anthem- “Christ Is Risen! Alleluia” Mark Hayes
(Children 4 through K may be dismissed to Children’s Church)

Scripture Reading –Matthew 28:1-15 p. 835 in Pew Bible

Sermon The Reverend Mr. David G. McKay

“THE GUARDS’ STORY”

Our Response to the Word of God – Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Congregation: That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life
and in death – to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for
all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny
of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can
fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all
things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him,
Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me
wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

*Hymn – “The Day of Resurrection!” #267

*Benediction

*Postlude- “Voluntary No. 1”

William Boyce
Marvin C. Perry, Trumpet

Sermon Outline -----

Matthew 28:1-15

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“THE GUARDS’ STORY”

Introduction: “In the midst of life ...,” what’s next? What is next?

Newton, death, “the great devourer”

I. The Truth Discovered

Verse 11 describes two different groups, the women and the guards who report “all that had taken place.”

Matthew 27:65, “as secure as you can”

II. The Truth of a Miracle

The guards are rewarded for a lie, the disciples will be punished for the truth.

Christians believe and proclaim the truth of a miracle.

Rev. 1:17, 18, p. 1028.

Machen, “If Jesus is dead, He must be treated as dead ... Give Jesus up, or believe that He rose...”

III. The Truth Believed

A miracle “cries out for the reaction of faith...”

John 20:8 “he saw and believed.” Rom. 10:9

Mt. 28:8 “departed ... from the tomb with ... great joy.” Rom. 15:13.

Ex.: Eisenhower and Billy Graham

Conclusion: The guards are given 1) a story to tell, v. 13

2) riches, v. 12

3) the assurance of freedom from punishment, v. 14