



## Sermon Series: Holy Week

### The Empty Tomb and New Life in a Cosmic Garden

*“God’s first thought of the world was the sacrifice of His Son.” -Hans Ur Von Balthasar*

He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.  
- Matthew 28:6

Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.- John 20:8,9  
- John 20:18

*“If human history has a source and goal other than in Jesus Christ, then the resurrection cannot be considered historical,... However, at the same time, if it did happen and is a historical event, then the resurrection of Christ becomes the centre and turning point of all of human history.” -Lesslie Newbigin*

## order of worship

### prelude

Leader: He is risen

**People: He is Risen indeed !**

### call to worship : from Psalm 24

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

**All: The LORD is our strength and our song; he has become our salvation**

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

**All:** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

### songs of praise

#### Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Christ, the Lord, is risen today, Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!

Raise your voice and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia!

Christ has burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Once He died, our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!

Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!

Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!

Hail, the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia!

#### Christ Arose

Low in the grave He lay

Jesus my Saviour!

Waiting the coming day

Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose

With a mighty triumph o'er His foes

He arose a Victor from the dark domain

And He lives forever with His saints to reign

He arose! (He arose)

He arose! (He arose)

Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed

Jesus, my Saviour!

Vainly they seal the dead

Jesus my Lord!

Death cannot keep his prey

Jesus, my Saviour!

He tore the bars away

Jesus my Lord!

### welcome & update

### prayer for the world, the church & the city

### confession

Gracious Father, you sent your son to die and rise to new life in order that death might be brought to an end, and that we might live a new life in Him. Yet we confess that we too often have chosen to remain captive to doubt and fear and ways that lead to death. By our thoughts, words, and actions, we have scorned your love, diminished the lives of others, and defaced your image in us. Father, forgive us for Jesus' sake, and enable us by His resurrection power to live no longer for ourselves but for Him who died and rose again for us. Amen.

### private confession

#### assurance of pardon: John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die..."

### song of assurance

#### In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found

He is my light, my strength, my song

This cornerstone, this solid ground

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, what depths of peace

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease

My comforter, my all in all

Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh

Fullness of God in helpless babe

This gift of love and righteousness

Scorned by the ones He came to save

Till on that cross as Jesus died

The wrath of God was satisfied

For every sin on Him was laid

Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay

Light of the world by darkness slain

Then bursting forth in glorious day

Up from the grave He rose again

And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

tithes and offerings:

doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

scripture reading: John 20:1-18

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

God's Word Today: Mike Hsu

sermon: The Empty Tomb and New Life in a Cosmic Garden

sermon outline:

1. The Seeds of Faith in John
2. Mary's Joy and Report
3. Three Observations:
  - a. John and Mary as the Beloved
  - b. Recognizing Faith as a Journey
  - c. The Question of Death Settled
4. The Invitation to a Response

the Lord's Supper | congregation stands

the Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Minister: It is right, and good, and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks unto you, O Lord, our Father Almighty, everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your holy name; evermore praising You and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth of Your glory are full. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

words of institution and declaration of faith

Minister: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.**

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God, take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on Him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

distribution of the Bread and the Cup

song of thanksgiving

**I Looked Up**

I looked up  
and I saw my Lord a-coming  
I looked up  
and I saw my Lord a-coming  
down the road.

*Hallelujah, He is coming,  
Hallelujah, He is here,  
Hallelujah, He is coming,  
Hallelujah, He is here.*

I looked up  
and I saw my Lord a-dying  
I looked up  
and I saw my Lord a-dying on the cross.

I looked up  
and I saw my Lord a-rising  
I looked up  
and I saw my Lord a-rising from the grave.

*Hallelujah, He is risen,  
Hallelujah, He's alive,  
Hallelujah, He is risen,  
Hallelujah, He's alive.*

One day I'll, I'll look up  
And I'm gonna see my Lord a-coming  
Yes I'll, I'll look up  
And I'm gonna see my Lord a-coming in the clouds

benediction: Hebrews 13:20-21

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.

peace

Minister: The Peace of the Lord be with you all

**People: And also with you**

Tithes up to March 30 2023

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Yearly Budget              | \$tba    |
| Budget Year to Date        | \$tba    |
| Actual Giving Year to Date | \$59,002 |
| Actual Giving Last 2 Weeks | \$4,988  |

(CC and other options such as e transfers are available via [mail@gracevancouver.com](mailto:mail@gracevancouver.com))

ministry & contacts

lead pastor: Mike Hsu – [mike@gracevancouver.com](mailto:mike@gracevancouver.com)

assoc. pastor of worship and discipleship: Abel Sisco-  
[abel@gracevancouver.com](mailto:abel@gracevancouver.com)

pastoral intern: Alex L.- [alex@gracevancouver.com](mailto:alex@gracevancouver.com)

elders: Wes Wong – [wes@gracevancouver.com](mailto:wes@gracevancouver.com)

Tony Lee – [tony@gracevancouver.com](mailto:tony@gracevancouver.com)

advisory: Dale Clements - [dale@gracevancouver.com](mailto:dale@gracevancouver.com)

office e-mail : [mail@gracevancouver.com](mailto:mail@gracevancouver.com)

building & hospitality team: Alan Quan, John Chan, Tanya Hsu  
[aquan02@gmail.com](mailto:aquan02@gmail.com)

care team: Sarah Merk, Oscar Lo, Tanya Hsu

[care@gracevancouver.com](mailto:care@gracevancouver.com)

missions & mercy ministries team (M3): Dilys Chiew, Tanya Hsu,  
Nicole L. [dilys.chiew@gmail.com](mailto:dilys.chiew@gmail.com)

**GRACE VANCOUVER CHURCH**

1696 west 7th avenue (at pine) | 604.738.3537

[gracevancouver.com](http://gracevancouver.com)

[facebook.com/gracevancouverchurch](https://facebook.com/gracevancouverchurch)

lead pastor mike hsu |

office hours: Mondays,Thursdays - Fridays 11am-3pm

music permission by CCLI#1823266

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Inward... "Transformed by the Peace of God in Christ"



*Outward*

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