

The Lord's Day

November 3, 2024 at 10:30 AM

We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.

As you join us today, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.

Please turn off your cell phone and turn your hearts and minds toward God.

We prepare for worship

Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...

The resurrection is the truth on which everything else hinges. Without it Christian ministry is pointless, personal faith is ineffective, God's character is called into question, Christians are still in need of salvation, any sense of future hope is removed, and our present experience is meaningless.

Dr. Stephen Um

Prelude

Airioso

J.S. Bach

Dr. Kenneth Dean, Jr., Director of Music Ministries

Please quietly prepare your hearts for worship during the Prelude.

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

We praise our great God

Call to Worship

Psalm 16:7-11

⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I have set the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Invocation

Hymn No. 286

Worship Christ, the Risen King!

Regent Square

Rise, O church, and lift your voices, Christ has conquered death and hell.
Sing as all the earth rejoices; resurrection anthems swell.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!

See the tomb where death had laid him, empty now, its mouth declares:
"Death and I could not contain him, for the throne of life he shares."
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!

Hear the earth protest and tremble, see the stone removed with pow'r;
All hell's minions may assemble, but cannot withstand his hour.
He has conquered, he has conquered, Christ the Lord, the risen King!

Doubt may lift his head to murmur, scoffers mock and sinners jeer;
But the truth proclaims a wonder thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.
He is risen, he is risen, now receive the risen King!

We acclaim your life, O Jesus, now we sing your victory;
Sin or hell may seek to seize us, but your conquest keeps us free.
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph, worship Christ, the risen King!

We embrace Christ's Word

Confession of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism, Q. 52

How was Christ exalted in his resurrection?

Christ was exalted in his resurrection, in that, not having seen corruption in death, (of which it was not possible for him to be held,) and having the very same body in which he suffered, with the essential properties thereof, (but without mortality, and other common infirmities belonging to this life,) really united to his soul, he rose again from the dead the third day by his own power; whereby he declared himself to be the Son of God, to have satisfied divine justice, to have vanquished death, and him that had the power of it, and to be Lord of quick and dead: all which he did as a public person, the head of his church, for their justification, quickening in grace, support against enemies, and to assure them of their resurrection from the dead at the last day.

Confession of Our Justification by Faith (Responsive)

Galatians 3:1b-14 (adapted)

^{1b} It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

² **Did [we] receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?**

³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

⁴ **Did [we] suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?**

⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?

⁶ **[By faith.] Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”**

⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

⁸ **And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”**

⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

¹⁰ **For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse;**

for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

¹¹ **Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law,**
for “The righteous shall live by faith.”

¹² **But the law is not of faith,**

rather “The one who does them shall live by them.”

¹³ **Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us**

for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”

¹⁴ **so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.**

Christ was Raised for Our Justification

Romans 3:24-25

²⁴ It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Hymn No. 243

Praise the Savior Now and Ever

Upp, Min Tunga

Praise the Savior now and ev'r, praise him, all beneath the skies;
Prostrate lying, suff'ring, dying on the cross, a sacrifice.
Vict'ry gaining, life obtaining, now in glory he doth rise.

Man's work faileth, Christ's availeth; he is all our righteousness;
He, our Savior, has forever set us free from dire distress.
Through his merit we inherit light and peace and happiness.

Sin's bond severed, we're delivered; Christ has bruised the serpent's head;
Death no longer is the stronger; hell itself is captive led.
Christ has risen from death's prison; o'er the tomb he light has shed.

For his favor, praise forever unto God the Father sing;
Praise the Savior, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit, through Christ's merit he doth us salvation bring.

We acknowledge God's blessings

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (**in unison**)

RE Jeff Soule

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

J.S. Bach
The Aisquith Choir

Jesus, priceless Treasure, Source of purest pleasure, Truest Friend to me. Ah, how long I've panted, And my heart hath fainted, Thirsting, Lord, for Thee. Thine I am, O spotless Lamb! I will suffer nought to hide Thee, Nought I ask beside Thee. Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in. Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather, Still have peace within; Yea, whate'er I here must bear, Thou art still my purest pleasure, Jesus, priceless Treasure!

The Doxology (**Hymnal, pg. 731**) and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

We are nourished by God's Word and Sacrament

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Sermon

“If’s and But’s’ Revisited – Part 1”

Pastor Ceselsky

Sermon Outline can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

Celebration of The Lord’s Supper

We respond to God’s grace

Hymn

In Christ Alone

Getty

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.

Benediction and Three-Fold Amen (**Hymnal, pg. 740**)

Danish

Postlude

If With All Your Heart Ye Truly Seek Him (from: Elijah)

Felix Mendelssohn

Please be seated and quietly reflect upon the Lord's grace during the Postlude.

Announcements

We experienced some unfortunate issues with our deposits from October 3 and October 27. On both occasions, while the deposits were being made, the ATM into which they were being made shut down. The church has been credited with the full amount of the donated funds, but if you gave a check on either of those dates, it could take up to 45 days for those checks to clear through your bank. (Some checks went through with no issues – it was about half of the checks on each Sunday.) We are very sorry for any issues this may cause you, but the bank is working with us to resolve the issue as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please speak with RE Mark Werner.

Stained-Glass window update: A group of church members and attenders asked the Session to reconsider the process for donating our stained-glass window. The Session, along with the Board of Deacons, agreed to work with this group to find a good home for the window. This will cause a slight delay in the window's removal. We fully anticipate that the project will be completed in January 2025. Feel free to ask Pastor Ceselsky if you have any questions.

Our Thanksgiving Offering this year will be made to MNA's Disaster Relief to help in the relief efforts following Hurricanes Helene and Milton – you can use your "Thanksgiving Offering" envelope or a pink envelope (labeled "Thanksgiving") at any time to give to this important cause.

Operation Christmas Child boxes are available in the narthex. Please feel free to fill as many as you want. Please check off which gender and age-range that the box is for. Boxes must be returned no later than Sunday, November 24.

Prayer Requests

1. Please continue to be in prayer for the Clark family as Ralph is currently under the care of home hospice. Pray as well for the family as they grieve the coming absence of one so loved.
2. Please continue to be in prayer for Stuart Jones as he adapts to the challenge of reduced ability to get around. Pray as well as work is done at their home to make it more accessible.
3. Please continue to be in prayer for Debbie DeFord as she recovers and rehabs from her bypass surgery.
4. Please continue to be in prayer for Mary Lou Wickham as she continues to deal with tremendous pain in her back (and leg).

5. Please continue to be in prayer for Joyce Donohue as she recovers/rehabs from a recent fall.
6. Please be in prayer for Aisquith members, family members and friends of the Aisquith Community who are currently struggling with various illnesses and other physical and emotional issues.

Weekly Calendar

TODAY:	9:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages Children – Rooms 16 & 17 Adults – Room 11
	10:30 AM	Lord's Day Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Choir Practice – Room 27
Wednesday	10:30 AM	Women's Bible Study – Rooms 15 & 16 (Please prepare pages 27-29 – Rachel)
	5:30 PM	Bell Choir Practice – Room 28
	7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study – Rooms 15 & 16 (Please prepare pages 55-60)
NEXT Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages Children – Rooms 16 & 17 Adults – Room 11
	10:30 AM	Lord's Day Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Choir Practice – Room 27

Coming Soon

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service – Wednesday, November 27 – 7 PM

Church Officers

Ruling Elders: Jeff Soule & Mark Werner (Clerk)

Deacons: Andrew Bell, Gus DeFord, Ken Schumann (President), and Rick Willis

Deaconesses: Christine Clark, Debbie DeFord, Fran Oswinkle, & Jeanne Williams (Moderator)

Sermon Notes

Date: November 3, 2024

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

Sermon Title: "'If's and But's' Revisited – Part 1"

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: Without the Resurrection, Christianity is thoroughly useless.

Main Point 1: No Resurrection means that death is ultimately the end.

Point 1: Christ is not raised if resurrection can't happen. (v. 13,16)

Point 2: We won't be raised if Christ has not been raised.

Main Point 2: No Resurrection means that Christianity is a false religion.

Point 1: Our preaching is in vain. (v. 14)

Point 2: Your faith is in vain. (v. 14,17)

Point 3: Lie about/Lie from God (v. 15)

Main Point 3: No Resurrection means no future hope.

Point 1: We are still in our sins. (v. 17)

Point 2: Believers who have died have simply perished. (v. 18)

Point 3: We are pitiable. (v. 19)