

Easter Sunrise Service

Isaiah 53 – selected verses

The servant grew up before God.

There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look.

He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand.

He was looked down on, people thought he was scum.

But the fact is, it was our pains he carried - our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us.

We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures.

But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—our sins!

He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed.

We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost.

We've all done our own thing, gone our own way.

And God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him, on him.

He was beaten, he was tortured, but he didn't say a word.

Like a lamb taken to be slaughtered and like a sheep being sheared, he took it all in silence.

Justice miscarried, and he was led off.

He died without a thought for his own welfare, beaten bloody for the sins of His people.

They buried him with the wicked, threw him in the grave of a rich man,

Even though he'd never hurt a soul or said one word that wasn't true.

Song: Oh, To See The Dawn (1st column)

Luke 23:44-47

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

Song: Oh, To See The Dawn (2nd column)

Prayer

God of justice and mercy, we worship you, offering our praise and adoration.

This morning we remember the sacrifice of your Son, sent to bear the punishment we deserve.

We are continually humbled by your love and grace.

Lord Jesus, as you powerfully made your risen presence felt on that first Easter Sunday, We invite you on this day of all days to make your presence known, come and blow our minds.

Holy Spirit come and fill us – and transform us by your power.

Soften and break our hearts that we might love as you love.

Amen

Luke 23:50-53

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.

Song: How Deep The Father's Love

Luke 24:1-12

At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of the Master Jesus. They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men, light cascading over them, stood there. The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, "Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here, but raised up. Remember how he told you when you were still back in Galilee that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and in three days rise up?" Then they remembered Jesus' words. They left the tomb and broke the news of all this to the Eleven and the rest. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them kept telling these things to the apostles, but the apostles didn't believe a word of

it, thought they were making it all up. But Peter jumped to his feet and ran to the tomb. He stooped to look in and saw a few grave clothes, that's all. He walked away puzzled, shaking his head.

Talk

The tomb is empty – the body gone. The Jesus story is over.

But something significant has happened – the veil in the temple has been torn

- the veil separated the people from the Holy of Holies – where God Himself resides
- the veil torn in two, from top to bottom
- the way to God has been opened again

But Jesus is still dead – and his body missing – it's all over.

Except we know it isn't over at all...

Two angels: 'why are you looking for the living among the dead?'

- 'He is not here, but raised up'
- just as Jesus said would happen – it was happening
- angels were sent to point out the obvious, to remind them of Jesus' words

Peter didn't believe the women – not thought to be very reliable witnesses at the time

- he ran to the tomb, and saw that it was just as they said
- but he walked away puzzled, shaking his head
- he heard with his own ears Jesus say he must die and be raised to life
- he saw with his own eyes that the tomb was empty – but he didn't put the two together

We have the benefit of hindsight – we know the story...

John 20:19-22

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side. The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

And this morning we celebrate like no other day, because:

Christ has died.

Yet Christ has risen.

And Christ will come again.

Praise be to God for his great love...

Sunrise Greeting:

Lord Jesus, we greet You, risen from the dead, victorious over sin and death, over suffering and shame, over all evil and wrong.

Lord Jesus, we greet You, risen from the dead, overcoming by the power of love, by patient trust and perseverance, by faith in God alone.

Lord Jesus, we greet You, risen from the dead, proving that nothing can separate us from God's love, showing us how far that love will go, and suffering for the sins of the world.

Lord Jesus, we greet You, risen from the dead, and we offer You our thanks and our praise, our prayers and our worship, our devotion and our service.

Song: In Christ Alone

Benediction

Today is God's promise of a new day, a new life, a new world, coming to pass in our midst.

Go out now as God's chosen witnesses to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him.

Set your minds on the things of God and do not be afraid for your life is safe with Christ in God.

And may God raise you from all that would bind you and hold you down.

May the risen Jesus Christ be your life.

And may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good.

Amen.

Song: In Christ Alone (final verse)