Easter Program

2019

Armadale

**Opening and Welcome**

**Hymn 37:1,2**

1. Hallelujah! Praised be the Son,

for his redeeming work is done;

from sin he has untied us.

He died, was buried, but he lives,

and to his ransomed people gives

his blessed Word to guide us.

2. Hallelujah! The praises tell

of David’s Son, Emmanuel,

the Saviour, God incarnate.

In him, who will return again,

let all the universe acclaim

he Father, Son, and Spirit.

**Reading**

Psalm 22: 14-21

 1 Corinthians 15:21-26

 1 Timothy 3:14-16

**Prayer**

**Psalm 118: 5,6**

5. Let me now thank the Lord

my Saviour;

Unlock the gates of righteousness

for this is where the righteous enter;

the gateway to the Lord it is.

I thank you, Lord, for you have heard me

and answered me in my distress

You are the rock of my salvation

with all my heart your name I bless.

6. The stone the builders had rejected

was chosen as the cornerstone.

To us a marvel unexpected,

it is the work of God alone.

This is the day he has created;

now let us sing with joyful tone.

Hosanna, Lord! Cause us to prosper.

Lord, bless all those who are your own.

***‘Rejected Stone’ – Psalm 118 vs 29 to 24 by Rev P Holtvluwer***

*V. 22 "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."*

"When ancient builders chose stones for the foundation, they chose carefully. The best stones were square and solid, to hold the weight of the walls above. Not every stone was suitable and many were rejected. The most important stone was the one at the corner. Its shape, size, and strength would be used to fit the two walls together, to keep them straight and sturdy, supporting everything up to the roof. Only special stones were chosen for that position. The unknown writer of Psalm 118 is actually rejoicing through most of his song. He expresses deep thanks to the LORD for rescuing him from his deadly enemies. He may be Israel's king returning from battle against the nations (v, 10). Whatever the case, God's people have been saved and now there's a procession up to the altar to joyfully tell the story of all that God had done (v, 27). And part of that story is that the poet had been treated like a rejected stone by certain "builders." Who these builders are we are not told. If we think of King David, then the builders could be his own family members, or Saul and his followers, none of whom wanted him to be king. Whatever the original setting, the New Testament is clear: the poet's pathway to victory outlines the Messiah's route to even greater victory. And that's a hard road. Like David was considered a "nobody" by those who considered themselves to be "somebodies," builders in this world, so Jesus Christ was considered a nobody by his own people. His elders considered him to be a throwaway rock, a useless stone that could never be used for any good purpose in Israel. Can you imagine the hurt of that rejection for Christ? Any rejection stings, but rejection of a sinless king by spiteful rebels hurts infinitely more. As his earthly ministry comes to a close, Jesus' suffering mounts and the first blow to hit is that his own people don't want him. As the parable of the tenants shows, Jesus knew exactly what was going on, exactly what kind of hatred they would pour out on him. Yet he did not stop or even hesitate. Our Saviour let himself be the rejected stone so he could become the cornerstone on which you and I would be built as living stones. Isn't that marvellous in your eyes?

**Hymn 25:1,3**

1. Let us of Christ our Lord and Saviour sing,

for, though God’s equal, though eternal King,

he did not to his rightful glory cling.

 Hallelujah, hallelujah!

3. He bore the weakness of our human frame

and he obedient unto death became,

for on a cross he died, in bitter shame.

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

**Psalm 18: 14,15**

14.The Lord, he lives! Praised be my rock forever!

Exalted be my faithful God, my Saviour.

He gives me vengeance, justice he pursues;

he hostile nations under me subdues.

O Lord,you honored me when foes disgraced me;

you far above my adversaries placed me.

You freed your servant from the tyrant’s might;

the fierce and lawless you have put to flight.

15. I will extol you, Lord, among the nations

for all your wondrous works of vindication.

Your perfect righteousness I will proclaim

by singing praises to your holy name.

Time after time God makes his king victorious,

grants his anointed triumphs great and glorious.

To David and his offspring he extends

the loving faithfulness that never ends.

***‘Victor’ – Psalm 18 vs 31 to 42 by Rev P Holtvluwer***

*V. 37 "I pursued my enemies and overtook them, and did not turn back till they were consumed. "*

King David, who had been in serious trouble (Ps. 16) and prayed earnestly for God's help (Ps. 17), now celebrates the LORD's answer to his prayer in Psalm 18. He shouts out his love for the LORD (v, 1) and praises him for saving him from death (vv. 4-5). God had acted decisively to rescue the life of his servant, and David is jubilant in public praise. When God delivers, we must praise him to others! But the LORD had done even more. Not only did he free the king from his overwhelming enemies, he completely turned the tables around. He secured the position of his servant (v, 32), trained him for war and made him powerful (v, 34), shielded and supported him (v. 35), all so that David could go after his haters. He pursued them, overtook them, and thrust them through so that they were not able to rise (vv. 37-38). Those enemies would never again trouble the king or any of his people. All of this anticipates what God would do for David's greater son, Jesus. Jesus is the Anointed King who also had been savagely attacked by ruthless enemies, even to the point of death. Yet God drew him out of the waters of death (v, 16) and secured Christ with new life and a strong position. Coming forth from the grave was not just returning Jesus to life but it was establishing him as victor over all his enemies. Christ's resurrection is an incredible turning point in the history of the world-something to give us great confidence and reason to celebrate! Our enemies are in defeat! Easter is the beginning of the end for Satan, his followers, and even our very own sinful nature, all of whom hate God and work tirelessly to destroy us, his people. Those enemies had thrown everything they had at Jesus, believing they had destroyed him, but his resurrection showed them how wrong they had been. King Jesus now has an indestructible life and rules the world with all of his Father's authority-and he means to fully wipe out all his enemies! This includes death itself. The forces of hate, evil, and destruction are potent in this world. Many Christians have felt the razor's edge of persecution and oppression. We've all felt the sting of death. But King Jesus' resurrection means their end is fast approaching!

**Hymn 31:1,2**

1. Christ has risen! Hallelujah!

He is our victorious Head.

Sing his praises! Hallelujah!

Christ has risen from the dead.

He has conquered sin and Satan.

Where, O death, is now your sting?

Jesus Christ alone is King!

Christ has risen! Hallelujah!

He is our victorious Head.

Christ has risen from the dead.

2. Christ has risen! He, our Saviour,

freed us from the powers of hell.

We are his! In him forever

we have triumphed over all.

Sun of Righteousness and Glory,

dawning with your healing light,

you have put all gloom to flight!

Christ has risen! Hallelujah!

He is our victorious Head.

Christ has risen from the dead.

**Easter Joy**

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

Joanna Fuchs

**Psalm 22:9,10**

9.I’ll sing my praises where God’s people meet

and keep the vows that I will there repeat.

Praise God, who gives the poor enough to eat.

Rejoice forever!

All nations will remember to revere him,

and all their families will bow down and fear him.

He issues his commands and all will hear him

the Lord is King.

10.All who are rich will fear his majesty;

all who go down to dust will bow the knee –

yes, all whose own strength cannot keep them free

from death and ruin.

Posterity through every generation

will serve him and proclaim his vindication;

those yet unborn will hear of the salvation

that he has won.

***‘Rejoicing with Our Resurrected Brother’ – Psalm 22 vs 22 to 26 by Rev P Holtvluwer***

*V. 22 "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation 1 will praise you. "*

Did you know that Psalm 22 speaks of Jesus' resurrection? Many know how it prophesies of his intense agony, but his resurrection? The truth is, David spends the last third of his poem rejoicing in God's deliverance, and that joy was never more full than when Jesus was delivered from death on Easter Sunday. Earlier David had felt forsaken (vv, 1-21), but he knew God would come through. He speaks of it as a fact (v, 24). Jesus was indeed forsaken on the cross and yet he knew, too, that his Father would come through and raise him from the dead (Luke 9:22). And so Christ rejoices with his people. Hebrews puts the words of verse 22 in Jesus' mouth: "I will tell of your name to my brothers" (Heb. 2: 12). Like David, the Lord Jesus did not keep the miracle of his deliverance to himself but made sure to declare it to God's people, his own brothers. Notice how that is emphasized in Hebrews and also by Jesus when he instructed the women outside the tomb, "Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me" (Matt. 28:10). The, resurrected Jesus is our brother-is that not amazing? That the Son of God took on our human nature in order to die for us is incredible in itself but that he has kept it in his resurrection is more astonishing! The glorified Christ is not ashamed to identify with us, sinful humans that we are! Though he is Lord of all, he is one of us too, a brother in the flesh. He's a brother who leads us in praise of his Father. Luke tells us that Jesus appeared to his disciples during forty days, "speaking about the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). Like David, Christ was declaring and explaining all that God had done and was still doing through him. That's just another way of saying that Jesus praised the LORD and told of his name (Ps. 22:22). And Jesus is still doing this from heaven. Christ's Spirit uses the preaching of Christ's word to gather in the church, and that word directs all praise to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus' resurrection means our salvation-let us rejoice in that! Our life's purpose is to honour our God, so let us join our exalted brother in praising him continually.

**Hymn 32:1-4**

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

All creation join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

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

2. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

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

Once he died, our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

3. Christ’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

4.Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!

Praise to you by all be given, Alleluia!

Risen Christ, triumphant now, Alleluia!

Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!

**Psalm 24:3,4**

3.Rich blessings shall be his reward,

and vindication from the Lord,

who is the rock of his salvation.

Such are all those who seek his face.

O God of Jacob, God of grace,

from you is all their expectation.

4.Lift up your heads, you arch and gate;

O ancient doors, rise up and wait.

Let him come in, the King all-glorious.

Who is this King so great in fame?

The Lord Almighty is his name,

he who in battle is victorious.

***‘The King of Glory ‘ – Psalm 24 by Rev P Holtvluwer***

*V.7 "Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in."*

Psalm 24 takes us from earth to heaven, from talk of creation to talk of glory. "The earth is the LORD's" (v, 1), and this LORD is the King of glory (v. 8). Glory is what surrounds God in his dwelling place, the brilliant light of his perfection and the ceaseless praise of his name (Rev. 4:8). That's what has David so excited in Psalm 24-he's thinking of "ascending the hill of the LORD" and standing in the "holy place" where God had graciously established his dwelling place, in Jerusalem (v, 3)! Probably David is bringing the ark of the LORD up to the city for the first time (2 Sam. 6). He wants to go up with it and enter into the presence of this glorious God but he wonders if he's qualified to do so. Does he have clean hands and a pure heart (v, 4)? Not on his own he doesn't! But David also knows of the altar in that holy place on which a lamb is sacrificed daily for the sins of all who put their trust in the LORD (Ex. 29:36). And so David does not despair but rejoices that the blessing of righteousness and salvation will be found in the presence of God (v. 5). Do you see how this whole psalm becomes a picture of Jesus' ministry? His are the only clean hands and pure heart. He is the only one worthy to ascend into his Father's presence, and yet he willingly gave himself over to be the sacrificial Lamb. That faultless offering won for him the right of resurrection and the right to ascend directly into God's presence in heaven! And so on Ascension Day Christ's journey continued up, up, up! He is more than the ark of God ever was-he is God in the flesh! Imagine the angels in heaven shouting as the cloud carrying Jesus came into view, "Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!" Jesus is LORD! Christ was strong in battle on the cross and mighty to crush Satan underfoot, so now as Lord of hosts he is welcomed and honoured as High King! Let's join with the choir of angels and sing, Jesus is the King of glory! Jesus is our God, strong and mighty, and invincibly ruling for us!

**Hymn 44:1,5**

1.Rejoice, the Lord is King;

your Lord and King adore.

Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,

and triumph evermore.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;

again I say: Rejoice! Rejoice!

5.Rejoice, he comes again.

The Lord will not delay.

He who from heaven reigns

will come on his great day.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;

again I say: Rejoice! Rejoice!

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| **A Love like no Other** |
|  |
| It’s not easy to understand this true story of old |
| The one about our Saviour who was denied and sold |
| Nailed to the cross and abandoned by His own |
| Shunned and questioned and left all alone |
| Too often we fail to see the depth of the truth |
| The magnitude of the pain and the torment by the uncouth |
| The accusations with no merit and the lies upon lies |
| To destroy this Man that came to save our lives |
| Flogged and beaten, tormented and shamed |
| Spat on, accused, ridiculed with earthly fame |
| On a donkey He rode, He wore a crown of thorns |
| And the suffering He endured in horrid forms |
| For a desperate thirty pieces of silver and more |
| He wept and hurt to His very core |
| Betrayed |
| By those who He came to save |
| To save them from their own sins and lives of pain |
| To elevate them to lustrous heavenly fame |
| Reconcile, redemption, to a reinstated position |
| All through the agony of this requisition |
| His perfect obedience was shown |
| For into the depths of hell, no God, all alone |
| His life was not taken, He deliberately gave it up |
| And received the punishment from the deadly bitter cup |
| The punishment for our sins that runs so deep |
| Which grows bigger each day, heap by heap |
| It is the undeserving truth, of this story of old |
| Our greatest Friend, whose sufferings were foretold |
| Who understands our hurts deeper than we could ever know |
| For He has walked the painful earthly paths and knows the grief it does bestow |
| From the sinfulness of life and the pain it delivers |
| He has waded through the depth of these raging rivers |
| All the while, obedient, knowing His faithful Father above |
| Was delivering His perfect measure of precious love |
| A love like no other with a deeper meaning of old |
| His story of suffering is ours to behold |
| For He knows intricately our heartfelt cries |
| He himself shares in our silent, heavy, unending painful sighs |
| For always, for now and for eternity to come |
| He is Our Saviour, our truest Friend…..Gods only Son*By Colleen Wagenaar***Hymn 7:1**1.Glory be to God the Father,glory be to God the Son,glory be to God the Spirit,God Almighty, Three in One!Hallelujah, hallelujah!Glory be to him alone!**Prayer****Coffee and Cake**Thank you for joining us! Please join us for coffee and cake and a time of fellowship. |