

*The Thanksgiving: Psalm 103:1-4

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**Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, O my soul
and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion.**

We Are Sent with God's Blessing

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "Because He Lives"

LUYH 361

Eastertide

May 4, 2025



Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ♦ Piano: Jill Friend ♦ Guitar: Rob Haan ♦ Bass/Viola: Derek Friend

Worship Leader: Joya Breems

Sound: Andy Landman ♦ Video: Jason Wyenberg ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Hearing Assistance

A telecoil hearing-loop system sends a signal into the sanctuary. If your hearing aid is t-coil equipped, try switching to the t-coil receiver. An FM hearing assistance system is also available for ears without hearing aids. Consult the sound operator for assistance.



Acts 9:17-18a

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored.

God Gathers Us for Worship

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

We do not gather as though mourning in the shadow of the cross.

**We meet as a resurrection people,
joyfully convened in the light of the cross.**

May that light illuminate our faith,

**enabling us to see the way your love reveals itself
in unlikely places and events,**

allowing us to see how your power works to reclaim, restore, and renew life,

permitting us to see hope even in times of dark despair.

Let us worship with bright, uplifted spirits and with glad hearts.

*Song: "Mfurahini, haleluya/Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia" LUYH 188

*God Greet Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "Living Hope" LUYH 770

1. How great the chasm that lay between us.

How high the mountain I could not climb.

In desperation I turned to heaven and spoke your name into the night.

Then through the darkness Your lovingkindness

tore through the shadows of my soul.

The work is finished, the end is written. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

2. Who could imagine so great a mercy?

What heart could fathom such boundless grace?

The God of ages stepped down from glory

to wear my sin and bear my shame.

The cross has spoken; I am forgiven. The King of kings calls me his own.

Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever. Jesus Christ, my living hope

Chorus: Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!

Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!

You have broken every chain. There's salvation in your name.

Jesus Christ, my living hope.

**3. Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
your buried body began to breathe.**

God Meets Us at the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Song: "Holy, Holy, Holy Is the Lord of Hosts"

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

**The whole earth is full of his glory, the whole earth is full of his glory,
the whole earth is full of his glory. Holy is the Lord.**

Words & Music: Nolene Prince, based on Isaiah 6:3 © 1976 Nolene Prince, admin. Resource Christian Music Pty., c/o The Copyright Company

The Institution: 1 Corinthians 11

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Dying he destroyed our death.

Rising he restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Prayer of Consecration, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power

and the glory forever. Amen.

The Invitation

We invite you to come down the center aisle to the communion table at the front of the sanctuary. You may partake at the table or take it back to your seats to partake there.

Gluten-free bread is available on the table.

Communion Songs: "I Am the Bread of Life"
"Beneath the Cross"

LUYH 842

LUYH 825

so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Sing Refrain

Song of Thanksgiving: "He Is Lord"

LUYH 227:1,4

Invitation to Giving

Offering our gifts is an important part of our response to God—connecting our worship with a life of discipleship—and is a way to participate in the ministry of Covenant CRC here in this building and around the world. Offering boxes are available, or check your bulletin announcements for more ways to give.

Drawing Names of New Elders and Deacons

Prayers for the Church and World

God Speaks to Us through His Word

Children In Worship Dismissal: "O Breath of God (The Risen Christ)"

***O Breath of God, come fill this place;
 revive our hearts to know Your grace
 and from our slumber make us rise,
 that we may know the risen Christ.***

***O Word of God, so clear and true,
 renew our minds to trust in You;
 and give to us the Bread of Life,
 that we may know the risen Christ.***

Words and music: Keith Getty, Phil Madeira, © 2003 Thankyou Music, Phil Madeira Music

Children ages 3 years old through kindergarten are invited to a time of worship designed especially for young children and can gather in the fellowship hall with the helpers. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:1-19a

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Message: "Brother Saul and All"

Pastor Joel Kok

*Song of Response: "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing" LUYH 184:1,2,5

***Out of the silence, the roaring Lion
 declared the grave has no claim on me. (repeat)
 Jesus, yours is the victory. (to chorus)***

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We Are Reconciled & Renewed

Prayer of Confession

**We come, O Lord, to confess our lack of trust.
 While we sing of your lordship over all creation,
 we have too often acted as though you are powerless
 in the face of today's events.
 Help us to live with confidence in your presence today
 and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.**

Words of Assurance: Psalm 30 with sung refrain

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***Though the night of weeping may linger,
 with the morning light comes joy***

Text: Psalm 20:5, Music: French, 17th cent.

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up,
 and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

**O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.
 O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
 restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.
 Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
 and give thanks to his holy name.**

**For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.
 Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

Sing Refrain

As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

**By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain;
 you hid your face; I was dismayed.**

To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:

**"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit?
 Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?
 Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!"**

Sing Refrain

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
 you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,