

Small Group Worship – Easter

Provided by the faculty of the School of Church Music and Worship

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Visit www.artistictheologian.com/smallgroup for hymn accompaniments and PDFs.

Opening Scripture (1 Peter 1:3-7)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead** ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ⁵ You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials ⁷ so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:3-7)

Group Prayer (Potential Prayer Prompts below)

Adoration:

- We praise God that he is the Creator of the universe and the Redeemer of our souls.
- We praise God and adore him as our Father.
- We praise God for being our Living Hope!
- We praise God for the life that comes to us because of Easter – because Jesus is alive! Jesus has risen from the grave and defeated sin and death!

Confession:

- We confess that although Christ has shown us mercy, we may not have shown others mercy and grace.
- We confess that we have placed our hope in people or things that will ultimately disappoint.
- We confess that we desire things that ultimately perish and fade.
- We confess that we've not rejoiced in our circumstances and have forgotten that our God is in control.

Thanksgiving:

- We thank our Father God for sending His only Son to give us new birth into a living hope!
- We thank God for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that he indeed is alive!
- We thank God that through Jesus and his completed work on the cross and his resurrection that we have an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading!
- We thank God for his grace in allowing us to go through this difficult time and that through it, our character and faith are being refined.
- We thank God that the outcome of all our circumstances may result in praise!



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Petition:

- We pray that others would come to know the great mercy we have in Christ Jesus.
- We pray that others would come to know Jesus Christ and to trust in him alone for their salvation.
- We pray that we would be good witnesses in our current trials and that others would see Christ-honoring character and faith in action.
- We pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones due to the virus and other diseases.
- We pray for our church, our pastors and leaders, and government officials.
- We pray that God would end this pandemic and that believers would be strengthened to share their hope in Christ and the inheritance we have that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.
- We pray for health care workers...for their strength, their stamina, their health, and for those who are believers, their witness.

Scripture (Matthew 28:1-7)

Reader 1: After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to view the tomb. ²There was a violent earthquake, because an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and approached the tomb. He rolled back the stone and was sitting on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴The guards were so shaken by fear of him that they became like dead men.

Reader 2: The angel told the women, “Don’t be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there.’ Listen, I have told you.”

Hymn: Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Easter Greeting!

Leader: He is Risen!

People: He is Risen Indeed!

Leader: He is Risen!

People: He is Risen Indeed!

All: Alleluia, God be Praised!

Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns (vs. 1, 2, and 4)

Scripture

Reader 1: The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, all his angels of great strength, who do his word, obedient to his command.

Reader 2: Bless the Lord, all his armies, his servants who do his will. Bless the Lord, all his works in all the places where he rules. My soul, bless the Lord!

Reader 3: Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and he judges and makes war with justice. His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on his head. He had a name written that no one knows except himself.

Reader 4: He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. The armies that were in heaven followed him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. A sharp sword came from his mouth, so that he might strike the nations with it. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty.

All: And he has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Hymn or Song: Behold Our God or All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Closing Prayer