

SUNDAY RECAP | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

RECAP FOR: **RESURRECTION SUNDAY** - April 1st, 2018

PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY

// Call to Worship //

Colossians 1:15–20

L: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

C: And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

L: And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

C: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

L: And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

// Prayer of Confession //

L: Jesus, forgive my sins. Forgive the sins that I remember, and the sins I have forgotten.

C: Forgive my many failures in the face of temptation, and those times when I have been stubborn in the face of correction.

L: Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements and those when I have failed to boast in your works. Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others, and the leniency I have shown myself.

C: Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided.

L: Forgive me the pain I have caused others and the indulgence I have shown myself. Jesus, have mercy on me and make me whole. Amen

// Assurance of Pardon //

L: Hear the good news!

This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

—based on 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

C: Thanks be to God!

// Passing of the Peace //

The good news is that those who were far off have been brought near. And we have been brought near to God and to one another through Christ our Lord. As a family with shared hope & peace, let's greet and welcome one another here today.

// Benediction //

L: In your journeys to and fro God direct you;
in your happiness and pleasure God bless you;
in care, anxiety, or trouble
God sustain you;
in peril and in danger
God protect you.
The grace of God be with you all, now and always.
Peace be with you!
C: And Also with you!

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY

// Call to Worship //

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.

L: God has claimed us as his own. He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world.
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

—based on 1 Peter 1:3-5

[Christ The Lord Has Risen Today](#)

[In Christ Alone](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: Loving God, you rode a donkey and came in peace,
humbled yourself and gave yourself for us.

C: We confess our lack of humility.

L: As you entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted “Hosanna: ‘Save us now!’”

On Good Friday they shouted “Crucify!”

C: We confess our praise is often empty. We sing “Hosanna,” but cry “Crucify.”

L: As the crowd laid their palms in front of you, you took no glory for yourself.

**C: We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way. We do not stay true to your will.
Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of obedience. Amen.**

// Assurance of Pardon //

“Seek the LORD while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake his way,

and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- Isaiah 55:6-7

L: In Christ, God answers us and sets us free!
C: In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

[Our Great God](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

But now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought near to him because of the blood of Christ. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us. Together as one body, Christ reconciled us to God by means of his death, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. - Ephesians 2:13, 14b, & 16

[Hallelujah What a Savior](#)

// Benediction //

L: May God fill your heart with such love for Him that you find yourself telling others of how amazing Jesus is. For He has lived for you, He has died for you, and He has raised to new life for you. Go now in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Peace be with you!
C: And Also with you!

Scripture to Meditate On:

Luke 18:14 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

Reflection Questions:

- In our Assurance of Pardon we heard: "To all and to each, on his community and on his friends, where regret is real, Jesus pronounces his pardon and grants us the right to begin again." Why are you thankful for the continual pardon and grace to 'begin again' (and again, and again)? Do you resist receiving God's pardon over and over again? Why is that? Why does continual pardon bother you?
- Pastor Ryan stated that the message of Jesus is not "I have come to reform the reformable" but rather "I have come to raise the dead." What does that mean? Which do you more often live by?
- Does it surprise you that the tax collector was justified by Jesus? Why?
- What were some of the problems with the Pharisee's approach to spirituality?

[Heidelberg Catechism](#)

Q & A 40

Q. Why did Christ have to suffer death?

A. Because God's justice and truth require it: nothing else could pay for our sins except the death of the Son of God.

Q & A 42

Q. Since Christ has died for us, why do we still have to die?

A. Our death does not pay the debt of our sins. Rather, it puts an end to our sinning and is our entrance into eternal life.

Q & A 45

Q. How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

A. First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death. Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life. Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.

Suggested Resources

Articles: [God at the Feet of Sinners](#) by Jessica Thompson

[Easter: Pathetic or Genius?](#) By Scott Sauls

[Practicing to Die, Practicing to Live](#) by Joel Hess

[Don't Wait Another Year Until Easter](#) by Paul Tripp

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents)

[Parenting Article: 6 Truths About Parenting that Reorient Everything](#) by Paul Tripp

[New City Catechism- Question 25](#)

Q: Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

A: Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God graciously imputes Christ's righteousness to us as if it were our own and will remember our sins no more.

[New City Catechism- Question 28](#)

Q: What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith?

A: At the day of judgment they will receive the fearful but just sentence of condemnation pronounced against them. They will be cast out from the favorable presence of God, into hell, to be justly and grievously punished, forever.

Questions to ask your children

- After three days of being dead Jesus rose from the dead, what does that mean for us? (It means that we can have that new life- a life without sin and it's effects- when we die. Ie- We will be with God and enjoy him, one another, and his creation forever!)
- If you work really hard at being good, will that mean God will save you? Why not? How are we accepted by God? (only by what Jesus has done for us!)
- Who is someone we know that doesn't know Jesus that we can pray for and talk to about how awesome Jesus is?

Prayer to pray with children: "God, thank you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to die for our sins. Thank you that Jesus rose from the dead and promises us a new life with Him forever and ever and ever. Give us more and more love for Jesus in our hearts and help us to understand how much He loves us. No one could ever love us more or better than Jesus. Thank you God, you are awesome! Amen."

Sermon Review

Title: Life from Death

Text: [Luke 18:9-14](#)

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/life-from-death/>

Podcast: <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

Sermon Overview:

Sermon Summary: God is not after good people he can improve, but dead people he can raise.

In Luke 18 Jesus tell the disciples about his death and resurrection, but much like us, they didn't really get it so He tells a few PARABLES (or stories) to help them understand more about this message of death and resurrection. They serve as an illustration of the reason for these events and show us how ordinary people connect to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

After the parables Jesus makes a clear proclamation of his death and resurrection, showing that the parables he just told are illustrating the role of His death and resurrection. Jesus says this:

And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise." **Luke 18:31–34**

One of the parables that precedes this is the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. It goes like this:

Luke 18:9–14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

The surprising thing here is that the very disciplined, moral, generous, and all around "good guy" Pharisee is not the one who is justified (or "accepted by") God! How can this be. The answer lies in the connection of this parable to the death and resurrection of Christ. Jesus is telling us he is not after good people to make better, but dead people he will raise.

While not many of us (ok, *none* of us!) are as good as the Pharisee and will admit we aren't perfect, we still do not like the idea that we are completely dead spiritually. Think about statements we make like "I can't believe anyone would...." or "What kind of person would..." Those are Pharisee statements where we are actually saying "Just so you know, I am NOT the type of person who would ever do something like that!" In other words, I may not be perfect, but I am also not as bad as THEM! In other words we are rejecting the fact that we are spiritually dead and proclaiming at least a little bit of goodness in ourselves. Jesus is instead inviting us to see ourselves as dead. As dead as the people we judge for being the "worst of sinners." Apparently the worst of sinners are the ones Jesus has come for. Any work on our behalf to make ourselves closer to being justified though our own good works is completely worthless. After all, this tax collector is better off than this God fearing, disciplined, generous, religious man.

Connecting with the resurrection means that we connect with what preceded it, namely Good Friday. We see that what we needed was not a list of rules to help us reform, but a sacrifice that would pay for our wicked sins and betrayal of God. If we think we “aren’t that bad” we only need to look to the cross and see it’s gruesome-ness. When we do we see what God thinks of our sin. If we accept this as our status with God, the resurrection will become our great hope! What we need as dead people is to be raised to new life. We can’t do it ourselves. But if Jesus can do it, we’re in! Listen to the Apostle Paul encourage us to cling to the promise of the resurrection:

Romans 6:5 *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*

My encouragement to you- Give up! Give up trying to earn your way to God with your goodness. Agree with Jesus, acknowledge your deadness, receive his death as yours, and be assured that His resurrection is also yours. He did it all for you. He didn't do the first part so you can do the second part. He did it all for you. His resurrection is yours. If you'll just realize you are dead. But good news- Jesus came to raise the dead! Hallelujah! Christ is all we need!