

An Easter Benediction

Introductions

Let's start by sharing our names and answering this question: [*Choose your own question*].

Songs of Praise

Let's spend some time singing to the Lord. [*Sing additional songs if you prefer. Contact the church office for copies of our church songbooks.*]

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love'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!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

Charles Wesley, 1739

Church News

- Share any news for your own group.
- Women's Breakfast, April 18th 8:30-10AM

Study

[*This guide utilizes the Sunday sermon notes, please [click this link](#) to access them.*]

Q: Would someone open us in prayer?

Q: Would someone read aloud Hebrews 13:20-21?

This passage is referred to as a benediction.

Q: What is a benediction?¹

Q: How does the writer of Hebrews describe God in this text?

Q: What had to occur so that you would be blessed with peace?

Speaking about this peace, Philip Hughes writes, "It is the God of this peace, which speaks forgiveness and acceptance to man at the very heart of his being, and which should permeate the whole of his existence in all its relationships and vicissitudes..."

Q: What does it mean for Christians to have daily peace? What does it mean for peace to "permeate our whole existence"?

Q: Why is the peace of Christ the greatest source of encouragement to you?

Q: What comes to mind when you think about Jesus as your Shepherd?

This movement of this benediction is toward Christian sanctification. It says that God blesses us in Christ so that we are equipped to do his will. That God would "equip you with everything good

that you may do his will. Let's finish by considering some passages which further explain the will of God for Christians:

Let's read aloud: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 5:12-22; 1 Peter 2:15-17; 4:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17.

Q: Among these passages, what particularly stood out to you and why?

Q: Before we break for prayer, are there any other questions or comments?

Prayer

[Take time to pray - men with men, and women with women.]

Notes...

¹ Consider having someone reading aloud Numbers 6:22-27. This *Aaronic Benediction* (in Hebrew *the Shema*) is the most notable benediction from the Old Testament.