

# Sunday Gathering Liturgy

The Power of God, Ephesians  
1:20-23 - Bradley Bell

April 12, 2020

Ephesians: Into the Fullness  
of Christ

## Call to Worship - Jason Crigler

Good morning and happy Easter! Thank you for joining us. My name is Jason and I'm one of the pastors here. I wish we could all be together this morning, worshiping our risen Savior in one place, but whether we're all together, or longing for the day when we can be, we can still celebrate the fact that Christ has defeated sin, conquered death, and changed the world forever!

Hear this word from Luke 24 when Jesus's loved ones found His tomb empty:

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

Congregation: He is not here, but has risen.

Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." Luke 24:1-7

Let's praise the name of our risen Lord this morning!

## *O Praise The Name (Anástasis)*

### Confession - Jason Crigler

Hear the apostle's word from 1 Corinthians:

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. 1 Corinthians 15:17-19

Let's consider the weight of our confession. If we put our hope in a man who has not been raised from the dead, then we're as good as dead, and we're wasting our time fighting against sin and unbelief. But, the apostle continues,

in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:20-21, 23

Church, this confession from our hearts and lips is a matter of life and death, more important than anything else in all of life. Let's say it together in faith:

Congregation: He is risen! He is risen indeed!

## *Jesus Paid It All*

### *Living Hope*

### Posturing Prayer

Father, thank you for our Living Hope, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Thank you for Jesus, who humbled himself and was obedient to you to the point of death—even death on a cross. God you exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name so that at his name, every knee will bow and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to your glory, Father. Amen.

## Sermon - The Power of God, Ephesians 1:20-23 - Bradley Bell

## **Baptism - Bradley Bell**

Baptism is one of the most important steps of obedience a Christian can take. It is a declaration and display of the total salvation Jesus has already provided for us. A person is lowered into the water to symbolize the death of Jesus. Then the person is raised from the water to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus.

Today we have one person who is declaring his new life in Christ through baptism: Luka Miller. Luka, thanks be to God for what he has done in your life! Baptism not only means you have committed to be a disciple of Jesus, but it also means the church commits to help disciple you. Church, we should feel the weight of this responsibility! So join me as we take a moment to pray for Luka.

[prayer]

At this time let's hear Luka's testimony...

## **Testimony - Luka Miller**

Luka Miller's testimony, read by Winona Miller:

I've gone to a Christian school since I was 2 and I've been a part of Antioch since I was born. I've grown up reading the Bible and praying with my family every day. But just because I'm growing up in a Christian family doesn't mean that I'm not a sinner. I've lied before, disobeyed my parents, and fought with my brother. Even though I've done all these things, I know Jesus has saved me by dying on the cross.

A couple of months ago at school, we had a substitute teacher. She was teaching us Bible and she explained salvation in a really good way. She explained that there were two paths- one that led to life and one that led to death. A couple of days after that, I was lying in bed and the thought came to my mind all that the teacher had said. I felt guilty about it so I prayed and told God that I knew I was a sinner and I asked Jesus into my heart and to forgive me. After that, I was filled with joy and relief.

Now, I'm still a sinner, but Jesus has washed my heart. I'm so thankful for that and I'm so thankful that I'm growing up in a Christian family where I can learn about God and the kingdom of heaven.

Bryan Miller: Luka, one important question before you are baptized. What is your sacred confession?

Luka: Jesus is Lord!

Bryan: Luka, come forward and step into the water. My brother in Christ, it is my honor to baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Buried in the likeness of Christ's death; raised to walk in newness of life.

## **Communion**

Amen!

Church, at this time we would like to take the bread and cup together. This does not mean we are instituting communion as a household practice or including it for all the remaining Sundays in social distance. We're also not seeking to make a statement about whether or not virtual communion is truly communion. We're simply in the midst of an unprecedented global crisis, and it's Easter, so we want to respond to this unique moment in church history by remembering and proclaiming Christ's death until he comes—as best we can.

So, take the bread or crackers and the juice or wine that you have prepared, and hear this good news. On the night that he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and said to his disciples, "This is my body, which is broken for you; eat this in remembrance of me" (go ahead and break the bread at this time). He also took a cup of wine, and after blessing it, gave it to his disciples and said, "This cup is the new covenant marked by the shedding of my blood. For as often as you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you announce the Lord's death until he returns." Today we are announcing that Jesus Christ is risen—he is risen indeed!

Our tradition at Antioch is to break off a piece of bread and dip it in the cup, and take it announcing that Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again. If you're a baptized believer, come and participate. If you're a believer but not yet baptized, before participating, we encourage you to first come and declare your faith publicly through baptism. And if you're not a Christian, this sacred symbol is not for you, but rather than taking communion, we encourage you to take Christ. You may take the bread and the cup at this time.

## **Good Friday Medley - Tim Donaldson**

*King Of Kings*

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## **Announcements & Benediction**

[prayer]

Thank you for joining us for Easter Sunday. As we always say, this is only a small part of the life of Antioch. We would love to have you in one of our Family Groups, where we seek to live out the Christian life together. Even though our Family Groups aren't gathering in homes at this time, we will still have online meetings through video-conferencing tools. If you would like to join in one of them, simply message us and we'll get you connected.

Church, just a couple important announcements before we go, both of them related to feasting:

1) First, as the pastors communicated earlier this week, and as Brad mentioned at the end of the sermon, we encourage you to feast together as a response to the good news of Easter. Remember there are two different liturgies (one for families and one for singles) that you can use; both were attached to the church-wide email.

2) Second, we also encourage you to feast on God's word by using our church's free two-month trial of the Dwell app, which helps you to listen to Scripture in a really powerful way. You can find the link to this on our AntiochFamily Facebook page.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and end with a benediction, which is simply a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing. Church, hear this:

[May] Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God—and extend it to others. Ephesians 3:17-19

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: We are sent.

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