

**3rd Sunday of Easter  
April 23, 2023 Worship Bulletin**

**Gathering for God's Word**

Prelude

\*Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ

\*Song of Praise

"Lord, Reign in Me"

Over all the earth, You reign on high  
Every mountain stream, every sunset sky  
But my one request, Lord, my only aim  
Is that You'd reign in me again

[Chorus]

Lord, reign in me, reign in Your power  
Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour  
You are the Lord of all I am  
So won't You reign in me again

And over every thought, over every word  
May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord  
'Cause You mean more to me than any earthly thing  
So won't You reign in me again

Words & Music: Brenton Brown  
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Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing the Bell

**Preparing for God's Word**

\*Call to Worship

[based on Revelation 7: 9-10]

Leader: John writes of his vision in Revelation where he looked and saw a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation,

**People: They came from every tribe and people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.**

Leader: Then they cried out in a loud voice,

**People: "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"**

Leader: Today let our voices join this ongoing heavenly hymn of praise.

**People: In Christ's holy name, let us worship our great God.**

### \*Hymn of Adoration

#268, "Crown Him with Many Crowns," vs. 1, 2, & 3 below

Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king  
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified;  
no angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

*Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing who died and rose on high,  
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.*

### Prayer of Confession

[Based on Psalm 51: 10-12]

**tide of our generation. We often fail in our calling to be your holy people, set apart for your divine purpose. We often live more in apathy than in the passion born from our hope in you. We often are moved more by our own ambition than by your love. We often dream more about our own comfort than service and sacrifice for you. We often try to speak in your name without relinquishing our own glories, without nourishing our souls, without relying wholly on your grace. Lord, please hear our silent prayers of confession.**

*[time of silent personal confession]*

Leader: God, help us to make room in our hearts and lives for you.

**All: By your Holy Spirit, forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

[Based on 1 Peter 2: 24]

Leader: Hear the Good News! He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness.

**People: By his wounds, we have been healed. Praise God!**

## Hearing God's Word

### Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #188, "Jesus Loves Me."  
After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

### Hymn of Preparation

#630, "Fairest Lord Jesus," vs. 1, 4

Fairest Lord Jesus,  
Ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down  
Thee will I cherish,  
Thee will I honor,  
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Beautiful Savior!  
Ruler of the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
Praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be thine.

Text: Munster Gesangbuch, 1677, stanzas 1-3, trans. *Church Chorals & Choir Studies*, 1850, alt; stanza 4, trans. Joseph August, 1873, alt.

Music: Silesian folk melody, *Schlessische Volkslieder*, 1842  
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### Prayer of Illumination

### New Testament Reading: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

## Sermon

“To Infinity & Beyond... Which Generation are You?”

## Responding to God’s Word

### \*Affirmation of Faith

[based on the Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A’s 54-55]

Leader: What do we believe about the communion of saints?

**All: We believe that the Son of God, through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. Of this community we are and always will be a living member. The communion of saints— believers one and all—as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts. We should readily and cheerfully use these gifts for the service and enrichment of the other members in order to glorify God.**

### Offering

Offertory

Anthem

“Easter Song,” California Baptist University Choir

\*Response

#606, The Doxology, “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

\*Prayer of Dedication

### Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,  
**People: Hear our prayer.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### \*Hymn of Response

#735, "I Need Thee Every Hour," vs. 1, 2, 4

I need Thee ev'ry hour,  
Most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine  
Can peace afford.

Refrain:

I need Thee, oh, I need Thee;  
Ev'ry hour I need Thee;  
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour,  
Stay Thou nearby;  
Temptations lose their pow'r  
When Thou art nigh.  
I need Thee every hour  
Most Holy One  
O make me Thine indeed  
Thou blessed Son

### \*Benediction

### \*Benediction Response

#2226, "Bind us Together," Sing the Faith Hymnal

Refrain

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together  
With cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord,  
Bind us together,  
Bind us together in love.

There is only one God,  
There is only one King;  
There is only one Body,  
That is why we sing:

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\*Postlude

\*Please Stand if Able