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GraceFallsChurchVA



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Grace Falls Church

April 25, 2021

“DEATH WAS ARRESTED”

[Verse 1]

Alone in my sorrow
and dead in my sin
Lost without hope
with no place to begin
Your love made a way
to let mercy come in
When death was arrested
and my life began.

[Verse 2]

Ash was redeemed
only beauty remains
My orphan heart
was given a name
My mourning grew quiet
my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested
and my life began

[Chorus]

Oh, Your grace, so free,
washes over me.
You have made me new; now
life begins with You!
It's Your endless love pouring
down on us
You have made us new: now
life begins with You!

[Verse 3]

Released from my chains
I'm a pris'ner no more
My shame was a ransom
He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt
and He called me His friend
When death was arrested
and my life began

[Verse 4]

Our Savior displayed
on a criminal's cross.
Darkness rejoiced as though
Heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose
with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested
and my life began

[Chorus]

[Bridge] x2

Oh, we're free—free, forever we're free!
Come join the song of all the redeemed.
Yes we're free—free, forever, amen!
When death was arrested, and my life began.
.....
When death was arrested and my life began.
When death was arrested and my life began.

[Chorus]

CONFESSION OF SINS

Worship Leader: 1 Peter 5:7 says, “Cast all your cares on him because he cares for you.” With the focus of our series this week—Because Jesus Lives: I Am Not Stuck—this passage gives us a glimpse of who our Savior is and why we are not stuck—because he cares for us even amid our burdens. Nevertheless, what this passage says is still a difficult thing for us to do. God tells us to give him all our doubts, all our concerns, all our worries. Yet, experience sometimes tells us, “There is nothing that can be done,” or “No one could possibly help.”

Do not be misled. Ephesians 1:7 tells us very clearly, “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.” God’s grace has no limit—something our human brains cannot fathom. It is like trying to comprehend the vastness of space. But God’s grace is far more encompassing, and it is why we are here to confess our sins. When we confess, we are offered forgiveness. With all the weight of guilt and shame off our shoulders we are reoriented, focusing on how we can live our lives for the One who has given us peace through forgiveness. Let us confess:

Congregation: Heavenly Father, I have sinned against you in more ways than I can count. I have sinned in my thoughts, by my words and with my actions. There are sins I know I have done and sins that I do not know I have done. Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Call me from the darkness into your wonderful light. Assure me of your love for me, cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

WL: God, our Heavenly Father, is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in faithful love. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are righteous in God’s sight and named as an heir of heaven. May the God of hope fill you with the peace and joy that comes only through his forgiveness. Amen.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”

³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die.

“I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” ⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” ⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

⁷ The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” ⁸ So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night.

The Lord Appears to Elijah
And the word of the Lord came to him:
“What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁰ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

¹¹ The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁴ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

¹⁵ The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.

¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.

¹⁷ Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu.

¹⁸ “Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

SECOND LESSON

Acts 12:1-11

It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ² He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. ³ When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

⁴ After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

⁶ The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.

⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up.

“Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.

⁸ Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.” And Peter did so. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him.

⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.”

"GOD OF WONDERS"

[Verse 1]

Lord of all creation
Of the water, earth and sky
The Heavens are Your Tabernacle
Glory to the Lord on high

[Chorus 1]

God of wonders, beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy

[Bridge 1]

Lord of Heaven and Earth
Lord of Heaven and Earth

[Verse 2]

Early in the morning
I will celebrate the light
And when I stumble into darkness
I will call Your name by night

[Chorus 1]

[Bridge 1]

[Bridge 2]

Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth
Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth
Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth

[Chorus 2]

God of wonders, beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
Precious Lord, reveal your heart to me
Father, hold me; hold me
The universe declares your majesty
You are holy, holy

[Bridge 2]

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Meaux Mercy, and Never Say Never Songs

BECAUSE JESUS LIVES:

I AM NOT STUCK

based on John 5:1-9

JOHN 5:1-9

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals.

² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.

³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie
—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

⁷ “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

⁸ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”

⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

PRAYER

Following the 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; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

"THRIVE"

[Verse 1]

Here in this worn and weary land
Where many a dream has died,
Like a tree planted by the water
We never will run dry.

[Pre-Chorus]

So, living water flowing through.
God, we thirst for more of You.
Fill our hearts and flood our souls,
With one desire:

[Chorus]

Just to know You and to make You known
We lift Your name on high.
Shine like the sun; make darkness
run and hide
We know we were made for
so much more than ordinary lives.
It's time for us to more than just survive
We were made to thrive

[Verse 2]

Into Your Word we're digging deep
To know our Father's heart.
Into the world we're reaching out
To show them who You are.

[Pre-Chorus]

[Chorus]

[Bridge] x4

Joy unspeakable!
Faith unsinkable!
Love unstoppable!
Anything is possible!

[Pre-Chorus]

[Chorus]

We were made to thrive!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & BLESSING

WANT TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE MUSIC?

This playlist contains nearly every one of the songs that we use for contemporary worship over the year:

**Also, feel free to send song suggestions or recommendations to Staff Minister Kyle Heise 😊.*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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