

# Worship

April 24, 2011

“From the psychological point of view, they would have been too depressed and shaken to be capable of such a dangerous undertaking. But above all, since neither they nor anyone else expected a resurrection, there would have been no purpose in faking one.” Geza Vermes (considered among the top Jesus scholars) in Keener, Gospel of Matthew, p.713.

For beyond all else it shall be obligatory to honor those who have been buried. Let no one remove them for any reason. If anyone does so, however, it is my will that he shall suffer capital punishment on the charge of tomb-robbery. Inscription “Ordinance of Caesar” (Betw. 50 bc. to 50 ad. Translation, Metzger.)

## Welcome, Prelude and Time for Reflection

### Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

### Declaring What We Believe: Confession of Faith (Nicene Creed, 4<sup>th</sup> c.)

### Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Children’s Worship)

### Giving Back to God: Offering

Please use the tear-off on the back so we can let you know about up coming events. Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our community; our budget maintains for twenty percent of gifts to go to works of local and global mission.

### Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading Matt 27.62 - 28.20

62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ 64 Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” 65 Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

28 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

11 While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers 13 and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ 14 And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” 15 So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

### Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives: Sermon

*We Can Believe and We Can be Changed*

1. Did it Happen?
  - a. Protecting against a Robbery, 27.62-66
  - b. Witness to What Happened, 28.1-10
  - c. Creating a Counter Story, 28.11-15
2. So What?
  - a. God at Work, 28.16-17
  - b. Four “All”s, 28.18-20



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## Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

### Public Reading

Lord, a section of us may doubt. It may be like some of your disciples did, maybe much more deeply. Please answer our doubt with yourself--alive and credible, powerful and present. Others of us believe but we lack the vision of how our lives are to be different. You answer that with your authority and that you are always with us. We confess we need you personally in one way or the other, or in some combination of the two.

Come near and challenge our thinking, uphold our believing, enable our feeling, serving and acting. Jesus, since you have all authority, we need neither cower because of our lack, nor boast to try to get more. Since you are present, confidence and comfort are offered us in ready supply. Your resurrection invests purpose in all of life and significance in what you have called each of us to do. Be Powerful and Present in us, Risen, Lord Jesus.

### Private Reflection

#### Words of Forgiveness

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1.8-9)

## Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a spiritual meal for all who believe in Him.

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays, we remain seated, with time to personally remember Jesus' death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

*Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.*

## Responding with Song

### Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thess. 2: 16, 17

## Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup

### Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

### Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, giving me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.



**Grace  
Hill  
Church**

Grace Hill is a church that seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus

Christ (see John 1.14-18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a denomination with a rich history of Christ's grace and truth.

Our pastor is Ross Durham; he can be reached by email at [ross@gracehillchurch.net](mailto:ross@gracehillchurch.net)

or by cell phone at 919.593.2169.

Our Worship Director is Michael Musser and our Children's Ministry Co-Directors are Robyn Musser and Kaylyn Fernandez.

**Address:** 515 Meadowlands Drive, Ste. 500, Hillsborough, NC 27278      **Phone:** 919.617.1792  
**Web:** [www.gracehillchurch.net](http://www.gracehillchurch.net)      **Facebook** Grace Hill Church News      **Group:** [GraceHillChurch](https://www.facebook.com/GraceHillChurch)      **Twitter:** Gracehillchurch



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Or if you prefer you can send your name, email address, and mailing address by txt to 919 593 2169 or by email to [info@gracehillchurch.net](mailto:info@gracehillchurch.net).

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