

## Reflecting On Xst's Promise of Firstfruits

The first celebration of “First-fruits” in Scripture was after the joyful accomplishment of crossing the Jordan River, renewing God’s covenant of circumcision and entering the Promised Land in Joshua 4-5. As Israel rested in the safety of the Promised Land in Joshua 5:10-12, God blessed His tired and hungry people with the first produce of the Promised Land – the barley harvest. Because of this abundant provision, the manna of their forty years in the desert was no longer needed. It stopped as God’s people began to enjoy “the produce of Canaan” (Josh. 5:12). This was the first time Israel was able to celebrate the Divinely commanded Feast of “First Fruits” (Josh 5:11-12).

Did the sweet taste of barley and the enjoyment of the “land of milk and honey” mean that all Israel’s troubles were over? Of course not! After just one verse (Josh. 5:13), Joshua is so scared at the prospect of conquering the great walled city of Jericho that he cannot even recognize the Lord Himself coming to His aid! But, though battles would continue, the “first-fruits” were God’s pledge that a new day had begun for His people, and that they would be safe in their inheritance.

**Reflect:** Thank God that Paul can write in the same way about us possessing by faith, the “first fruits of the Holy Spirit” in Romans 8:23. Though many trials and tests in Canaan would arise for God’s people under Joshua, and though we too face many heartbreaks, trials and failures, our place in God’s harvest is secure! Not one grain of God’s elect harvest will be lost!

4

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## MORNING WORSHIP

April 26, 2026



### GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**Announcements & Silent Reflection**

**Salutation & Call to Worship**

1 Cor. 15:16-23 (p 1142 pew Bible)

**GOD'S  
PEOPLE  
RESPOND**

**\* Opening Song**

*Christ Is Risen*

# 26 *Covenant Praises* (all verses)

- 1 How can it be the One who died Has borne our sin through sacrifice  
To conquer every sting of death Sing sing hallelujah
- 2 For joy awakes as dawning light When Christ's disciples lift their eyes  
Alive He stands their Friend and King Christ Christ He is risen

**Chorus** Christ is risen He is risen indeed Oh sing hallelujah  
Join the chorus sing with the redeemed  
Christ is risen He is risen indeed (He is risen)

- 3 Where doubt and darkness once had been  
They saw Him and their hearts believed  
But blessed are those who have not seen Yet sing hallelujah **(Chorus)**

- 4 Once bound by fear now bold in faith  
They preached the truth and power of grace  
And pouring out their lives they gained Life life everlasting **(Chorus)**

- 5 The power that raised Him from the grave Now works in us to powerfully save  
He frees our hearts to live His grace Go tell of His goodness **(Chorus 2xs)**

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**Invocation & Reading of God's Law**

1 Cor. 15: 35-49 (p 1068 pew Bible)

**We Confess Our Sin**

Psalm 69:6-12 (unison) (p 571 pew Bible)

**Assurance of Pardon**

Psalm 69:13-16 (p 571 pew Bible)

**We Petition God**

Congregational Prayer

**Offering & Hymn**

*The Church's One*

*Foundation*

# 347 *Trinity Hymnal* (vv. 1, 3)

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is his new creation by water and the Word:  
from heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

3 Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.\*\*

**\* Gloria Patri**

#735 *Trinity Hymnal*

**GOD SPEAKS HIS WORD TO HIS PEOPLE**

**\* Hymn of Preparation** *I Know That My Redeemer Lives - Glory, Hallelujah!*

#281 *Trinity Hymnal* (vv 1 - 3)

1 I know that my Redeemer lives—glory, hallelujah!  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives—glory, hallelujah!

**Refrain:** Shout on, pray on, we're gaining ground—  
glory, hallelujah! The dead's alive and the lost is found—  
glory, hallelujah!

2 He lives, he lives, who once was dead—glory, hallelujah!  
He lives, my everlasting Head—glory, hallelujah! **[Refrain]**

3 He lives, to bless me with his love—glory, hallelujah!  
He lives to plead for me above—glory, hallelujah! **[Refrain]\*\***

**\* Prayer For Illumination**

**Scripture**

Rom. 8:18-25 (pp 1122 pew Bible)

Joshua 5:10-12 (p 214 pew Bible)

**Sermon**

Christ's Promise For A Fruitful Life Begun In His Own

**Prayer of Application**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*And Can It Be*  
# 455 *Trinity Hymnal* (all verses)

1 And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

**Refrain:** Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

2 'Tis myst'ry all! Th'Immortal dies: who can explore his strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, let angel minds inquire no more. **[Refrain]**

3 He left his Father's throne above (so free, so infinite his grace!),  
humbled himself (so great his love!) and bled for all his chosen race!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for, O my God, it found out me! **[Refrain]**

4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
my chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed thee.  
**[Refrain]**

5 No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my  
own. **[Refrain]\*\***

**\* Benediction**

**\* Doxology**

#731 *Trinity Hymnal*

\* Please stand if able

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