I. Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah

- a. Psalm 148:1–12 (ESV) ¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! ² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! ³ Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created. ⁶ And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, ⁸ fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰ Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds! ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and maidens together, old men and children!
- b. As we read this Psalm a song comes to mind, Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah
 - i. The Psalm is an encouragement for all of creation to praise God
 - ii. Psalm 19:1 (ESV) ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
 - iii. All creation is everything (since God created it all)
- c. While verse 13 (our text) becomes the chorus for this hymn, it is also our rallying cry
- d. All creation praises Him for salvation

II. The Crucifixion

- a. "I cast my mind to Calvary where Jesus bled and died for me. I see His wounds; His hands; His feet. My savior on that cursed tree"
- b. Acts 2:22–23 (ESV) ²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
- c. This was God's plan from the beginning
 - i. 1 Peter 1:18–21 (ESV) ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
 - ii. Jesus' whole life had one purpose, the cross
 - iii. Everything He said and did was to get Him to the cross
 - iv. His actions in the garden, His silence in front of Pilate, His statement to the Sanhedrin all done with purpose and intent
 - v. Luke 23:32–34 (ESV) ³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on

- his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.
- vi. John 19:28–30 (ESV) ²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
- vii. To ensure His death, a Roman soldier pierced His side with a spear
- d. Jesus' purpose (the cross) was (is) our salvation

III. The Tomb

- a. "His body bound and drenched in tears, they laid Him down in Joseph's tome. The entrance sealed by heavy stone. Messiah still and all alone"
- b. John 19:38–42 (ESV) ³⁸ After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.
- c. There are many things associated with the tomb that are important for us
 - i. Jesus' body was prepared for burial with grave clothes and spices
 - ii. The stone that closed the tomb was too heavy for several women to move
 - iii. The tomb was sealed with a Roman seal
 - iv. The tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers
 - v. Matthew 27:62–66 (ESV) 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.
- d. To break the bonds of death, Jesus had to be dead and buried

IV. The Resurrection

- a. "Then on the third at break of dawn, the Son of Heaven rose again. O trampled death, where is your sting? The angels roar for Christ the King."
- b. This is where our hope is
 - i. 1 Corinthians 15:13–19 (ESV) ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised

Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

- ii. Paul begins chapter 15 telling us that the resurrection is "of first importance" and that Christ appeared to many people
- iii. I think of John as he gets to the tomb after Mary tells the disciples of Jesus' resurrection
- iv. John 20:5–8 (ESV) ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;
- v. John 20:27–29 (ESV) ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
- c. Blessed are those who have not seen (us) and yet have believed!
- d. The angels roar for Christ the king!

V. The Return

- a. "He shall return in robes of white, the blazing sun shall pierce the night. And I will rise among the saints, my gaze transfixed on Jesus' face"
- b. There has been much said about Jesus' return
 - i. Many have attempted to guess when He is coming back
 - ii. Paul writes to Timothy about Hymenaeus and Philetus who were saying that the resurrection has already happened (2 Timothy 2:18)
 - iii. Acts 1:6–7 (ESV) ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.
 - iv. 1 Thessalonians 5:1–2 (ESV) ¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
 - v. Paul goes on to tell the church in Thessalonica that they (Christians) should not be surprised; we live each day expecting Jesus to return, we are soberminded, watchful, waiting with anticipation of eternity with Jesus
- c. We are all waiting for the inevitable change from mortality to immortality!
- d. 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who

are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

e. We will rise among the saints!

VI. O Praise the Name

- a. Psalm 148:13 (ESV) ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.
- b. Praise Him for His crucifixion
- c. Praise Him for His Resurrection
- d. Praise Him for His return