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## HOUR OF POWER OF 12.04.2009

### Easter

#### PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

From the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, it's Easter Sunday morning on the Hour of Power with Robert Schuller.

#### HYMN - "Christ is Risen, Raise Your Voices"

Christ is risen, raise your voices, jubilant with joy and praise; Christ is risen, earth rejoices, to our Lord your anthems raise.

Over sin and death victorious, Christ is risen, hail your King! Always may His praise be glorious, let the world His triumph sing! He is risen, Alleluia!

#### GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RHS: Good morning! And happy Easter!

Wow, my name is Robert Schuller and we welcome you to this beautiful Easter celebration. What a glorious day and doesn't this look beautiful with the flowers? Wow, thank the people who spent all night here. The last Glory of Easter last night, 10 o'clock the people left and then the volunteers came. What a crowd and they spent all of the hours from 10 last night till 6 this morning bringing in the flowers. We can thank God for these wonderful gardens, flowers, a morning today but most of all thank you, thank you. Easter isn't Easter until you see a smile and lock eyes with another believer so that's what happens. Can't you hear? Even silence says something. And listen, to the silence that speaks from the empty tomb, says, He is risen, He is risen indeed. Say it. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Yes, this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Oh God, once, only once, one morning, only one morning, one day, only one day, a man came back from death and His name was Jesus. Hallelujah, Amen.

#### HYMN - "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Dying once, He all does save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Lives again our glorious King! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### SCRIPTURE – Matthew 28 - RHS

RHS: You may be seated. On this glorious Easter morning, hear the Easter story as it is recorded in the New Testament. And this we believe is not a myth; it is history.

Now after the Sabbath as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb and behold there was a great earthquake for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it. And the angel said to the women: do not be afraid, I know you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen as He said He would. Now go quickly, tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead

and indeed He is going ahead of you in Galilee, there you will see Him. Oh death, where is your sting, oh grave, where is your victory. Thanks be to God who gives us a victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
May God bless the reading of this His holy word.

ANTHEM - "Festival Alleluias"

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, Christ is risen, allelu - Victorious over death. Victorious, victorious, victorious, victorious.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ is risen, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Christ is risen.

Alleluia, Christ is risen, Christ is risen. Alleluia!

RHS THANK YOU TO DON NEUEN & CHOIR

RHS: Thank you Donald Neuen, thank you Choir.

LARRY GATLIN INTRODUCES SONG

GB: Thank you. Good morning. My brother Steve, brother Rudy and I are very glad and happy and grateful to be with you wonderful people this morning. And we're especially thankful for the amazing grace of God. Let's do it, boys.

TRIO – THE GATLIN BROTHERS - "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a soul like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun. We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

INTERVIEWS – BEST OF EASTER

RHS: This glorious morning as we celebrate our 39th Easter on television, the world's first and longest running televised church service in history, coming to you from the glorious Crystal Cathedral. Fantastic. I wanted to take a moment and bring to you some of the greatest and most beloved Easter moments that you've seen on the Hour of Power. Yes, join me as we celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ:

DAVID FOSTER: Happy Easter, Dr. Schuller.

RHS: Thank you.

DAVID FOSTER: And everybody here. It's great to be here.

RHS: Isn't it fabulous?

DAVID FOSTER: Unbelievable. (PIANO MUSIC)

GREGORY PECK: The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulcher. Then she runneth and cometh to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved and saith unto them, 'They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher and we know not where they have laid Him.'

FRED FRANK: “With His arms open wide He was nailed to a tree. With His arms open wide He redeemed you and me. As His last breath was heard throughout eternity, Jesus died with His arms open wide.”

PAT BOONE: Easter is about hope and of course as I stand in this place and see that this is not only a testament to hope, but it’s the fruit of hope.

PAT BOONE: “Not long ago my well had run dry, still alive and kicking but eatin’ humble pie. Then hope came along, filled my heart with a song, and gave me lots of reasons why. I’ve got a pocket full of hope, a heart full of dreams and I believe the future can be brighter than it seems.”

DEBBY SMITH: “The heavens are telling the glory of God, hallelujah, hallelujah. All of creation forever of God, hallelujah, hallelujah. Lift your voices and let them ring, if you do not the stones will sing.”

GREG BUCHANAN: (HARP MUSIC)

FATHER IOANN: (SPEAKS RUSSIAN)

INTERPRETER: And I’d like to ask God today in this church..

FATHER IOANN: (SPEAKS RUSSIAN)

INTERPRETER: ..to bless..

FATHER IOANN: (SPEAKS RUSSIAN)

INTERPRETER: ..bless this church..

FATHER IOANN: (SPEAKS RUSSIAN)

INTERPRETER: ..bless the members of this church..

FATHER IOANN: (SPEAKS RUSSIAN)

INTERPRETER: ..bless the American people..

FATHER IOANN: (SPEAKS RUSSIAN)

INTERPRETER: ..to bless the union and cooperation between Russia and the United States.

WINTLEY PHIPPS: “Arise my love, arise my love, the grave no longer has a hold on You. No more death’s sting, no more suffering, arise, arise my love.”

JENNIFER O’NEILL: So what God has done with my life, since I received Christ at 38, is He has transformed my life and He is even using little old me at 54 years old, to speak to thousands of people at a clip, to give the hope and grace that God offers each and every one of us on a daily basis, to change their life no matter where they’ve been or what they’ve done, there is healing. God wants us healed and released and powerful and victorious in His will.

ERIC GROSSMAN: (VIOLIN MUSIC)

ROBERT SIMS: “Children did you hear when Jesus arose, did you hear when Jesus arose. Did you hear when Jesus arose, He rose and ascended on high. Children did you hear when Jesus arose, did you hear when Jesus arose. Did you hear when..”

SHEILA WALSH: “Wake, I have seen the Lord, I’ve seen the nighttime die. Peace, I have seen the Lord, He’s life that will never die. Never die. Jesus is alive, Jesus is alive, Jesus is alive.”

RHS: Well Ed, its Easter time; what does Easter mean to you?

ED ARNOLD: This is one of the most special times I think for any Christian around the world because we know what our great Lord and Savior gave up for this particular day. And it’s some time that you’ll find people who may not go to the church any time during the year that they will make it a time to go and talk about their faith and show their faith. And that makes it more special for us, I think.

CYNTHIA CLAWSON: “Beautiful are the scars left in my Savior’s hands. Beautiful His sacred wounded head. The marks are His forever, but now they stand for triumph over sin and life and death.”

BARB & TOBY WALDOWSKI: “Over and over like a trumpet underground, did the earth seem to pound ‘He is risen.’ Over and over like a never ending round, He is risen, Hallelujah, Hallelujah. Was it a morning like this..”

DOROTHY BENHAM: “..when the sun still hide in Jerusalem. And Mary rose from her bed to tend the Lord she thought was dead. Was it a morning like this..”

KEN MEDEMA: “Rise up Mary Magdalene, you with a sordid past. The one who gave your life to you, has conquered death at last. Should it be among the first to see Him on this day, for love has made Him rise and love will never go away.”

2nd CHAPTER OF ACTS: “The angel up on the tombstone said ‘He is risen just as He said. Quickly now go tell His disciples that Jesus Christ is no longer dead.’ Joy to the world He is risen, Hallelujah. He’s risen, Hallelujah.”

EUGENE FODOR: (VIOLIN MUSIC)

TOM TIPTON: “Were you there when they crucified my Lord. Were you there..”

CHARLTON HESTON: And they returned to Jerusalem rejoicing, the Lord is risen. When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, Jesus came where the disciples were and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be unto you’ and to Simon Peter He said, ‘Simon, son of John, lovest thou Me?’ And Simon Peter said, ‘Yea Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘ten My sheep.’ And to all He said, ‘As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you. Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.’ Now the things which Jesus did, if they should be written every one, I suppose the world itself could not contain the books which would be written.

ROGER WILLIAMS: (PIANO & ORCHESTRA MUSIC)

ANTHEM - "Worthy is the Lamb"

Worthy! Worthy! Worthy is the Lamb that was slain. Worthy, worthy, worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain.

Worthy to receive power, worthy to receive riches, worthy to receive wisdom and strength. Worthy to receive honor, worthy to receive glory, worthy to receive blessing is the Lamb of God. To the One seated on the throne, seated on the throne and unto the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory forever and forever. Forever and forever, forever and forever, Amen! Amen!

Worthy to receive power, worthy to receive riches, worthy to receive wisdom and strength. Worthy to receive honor, worthy to receive glory, worthy to receive blessing is the Lamb of God. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain! Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain! Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!

SOLO – DEVON GUTHRIE – “I’ve Just Seen Jesus”

We knew He was dead: “It is finished” He said; we had watched as His life ebbed away. Then we all stood around ‘til the guards took Him down. Joseph begged for His body that day. It was later afternoon when we got to the tomb, wrapped His body and sealed up the grave. So I know how you feel; His death was so real. But please listen and hear what I say.

I’ve just seen Jesus! I tell you He’s alive! I’ve just seen Jesus, our precious Lord, alive. And I knew He really saw me too; as if ‘til now I never lived. All that I’d done before won’t matter anymore. I’ve just seen Jesus. And I’ll never be the same again!

It was His voice I first heard: those kind, gentle words asking what was my reason for tears. And I sobbed in despair, "My Lord is not there." He said, "Child, it is I, I am here!"

I've just seen Jesus! I tell you He's alive! I've just seen Jesus, my precious Lord, alive. And I knew He really saw me too; as if 'til now I never lived. All that I'd done before won't matter anymore. I've just seen Jesus, I've just seen Jesus. All that I done before won't matter anymore. I've just seen Jesus and I'll never be the same again! I've just seen Jesus!

#### RHS THANK YOU TO DEVON GUTHRIE

RHS: And all God's people said, WOW! Thank you Devon. Thank you very much.

#### MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT H. SCHULLER

"Let's Celebrate Easter"

RHS: My message title this morning is "Let's Celebrate Easter." After what we've just come through? You bet. We've just come through Good Friday. Now about 1000 of you were here at the Good Friday services and closer to 20,000 here this morning and I want to just repeat, if the Good Friday attendees will permit me to repeat a couple of points I made Friday, if any of you missed it. You know I said, 'Why do we call this Friday good?' Jesus spoke seven words and out of those seven words, go home and study it, these are the teachings He taught us.

He taught us number one: any sin can be forgiven. You can forgive them who killed this Jesus and any sin is potentially forgivable.

Second thing He taught us – that we're saved by grace, not through works. To a dying thief He said, 'This day you will be with Me in paradise.' Man, this dying thief didn't even repent yet of his sins. He didn't know theology. And Jesus said, 'You'll be with Me tonight in heaven.' Jesus is a lot more forgiving than most church members or theologians.

Third point Jesus made was: you belong to a family and through the worst of times just remember this: we all go through suffering and through some rejections but remember this: the family will always stay with you. He said it, 'Woman, behold your son.' She was there. He was despised and rejected of men but His mother stood with Him.

Fourth point He made was: faith can survive the worst tragedy. When He said, 'My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?' No tragedy was ever experienced by any human being that Christ experienced on the cross when He said, 'God abandoned me.' But He did not abandon His faith. He still said, 'My God, My God, My God!' Didn't become an atheist. His faith survived His worst tragedy. Wow!

And then the fifth line He gave us was: Good Friday's taught us that it's okay to hurt. And you can experience a failure or a rejection or a setback or even experience a disappointment and it's okay to expose it and express it. When He said, 'I thirst,' He wasn't too proud to admit that He needed help. It's okay to express and expose your hurts.

The sixth point He made was: There's a time to let go. 'Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.' You know we have a terrible tendency to think that it's wrong to let go. Life would be a lot better off for a lot of people if they knew when to let go. 'Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.' Norman Vincent Peale was in his 90's and it was Christmas Eve and in a few hours Christmas would be there

and he was very sick. And Ruth stood at his side and she said, 'Norman, its okay to let go. You can let go now.' And he let go and he died. There's a time to let go.

And the seventh word that Christ gave us on Good Friday is: at the end of our life we can experience fulfillment. Yeah. It's finished, He said. It's finished, which means He did His job. He did what He had to do. He didn't walk away until it is finished. Fulfillment.

Well that's Good Friday. That's where we come from and now, 48 hours later, the tomb is empty. He was taken down from the cross, put in Arimathea's tomb, and now a legend is born that He's resurrected, that He rose from the dead.

Some of you experience reality therapy and many of you are into reality television. Well I'm going to give you reality religion. Reality religion: something happened on Easter morning, whether you believe it or not. I'm telling you, something happened. The seal was broken and it was a crime to break a Roman seal, punishable by death. The soldiers were gone and it was a death penalty for any soldier that abandoned his role. The tomb was empty except for the cloth that wrapped His dead body and it was folded neatly, carefully and the tomb was empty. And the followers, they split, they left, they didn't want to admit they were one of His. They were afraid they'd be next. They cut out. Suddenly, whatever happened in that empty tomb, they were transformed. He saw them, He talked with them, they saw Him, they talked to Him. All except one, Thomas, said, 'It can't be.' And Jesus said, 'Come, put your finger in the hole in My hand, Thomas.' And Thomas said, 'I believe. Yeah, I believe.' Wow!

And He made several appearances until He ascended into heaven. Something happened after Good Friday, it's called Easter. The dead body was gone and you cannot imagine what that means because in that culture, in that time and in that place bodies were preserved. They never found a hair of Him, not a bone, not a bloody cloth, not a remnant. It's gone. And some of the greatest reasons Christianity has survived 2000 years is critics, cynics, doubters, atheists have, through these 2000 years, tried studiously, these scholars, to debunk the resurrection and those who tried landed up becoming converts. You try to study what happened and you'll become a believer. And I hope that happens to you today. Good Friday, Easter, where are we today? Today I've good news for you.

One of the last words Jesus spoke, resurrected, to His apostles, was: 'I will be with you always, even to the end of the earth.' Guess what? No religious leader, no philosopher, nobody that influenced the thinking of human beings ever said, 'I will be with you to the ends of the earth.' Mohammad didn't say that. Buddha didn't say that. Nobody said it. No Hindu teacher has said it. No Old Testament prophet ever said it. Not Moses, not Isaiah, only one human being that led a new faith said, 'I will be with you always, till the end of the earth.' And He's alive today, very much so.

I've noted that many people are saying to me, I don't go to church, I don't claim a religion, but I'm spiritual. I understand it. I'm spiritual. You think there's like a God? Yes, I think so, but I'm not religious. What is that spirit that you feel? You don't realize it that is Jesus Christ. You don't call Him by the right name. You don't know Him but Jesus said, 'I'll love people even if they don't love Me. I will love people and bless them even if they don't admit to Me.' Jesus Christ is making His presence felt in a cosmic spirit in the world today and that's why the people who don't come to church and don't claim to be religious are experiencing the presence of Christ, only they don't know it. They are. Jesus will be with you through a horrible Good Friday that you might have to go through.

Jesus is with you. He's with you so much. You don't even realize it. His presence is here. His last word was: 'I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. I will

be with you always unto the end of your life? No, until the end of the world.' My last line, it's a great one; you've never heard me say it before. Jesus lives. Jesus never said good-bye.

#### ROGER WILLIAMS INTRODUCES PIANO SOLO

RW: Good morning. You know something? It's sure good to be home and a Happy Easter to you. Really is. But the dawn of that first Easter was anything but happy for the few remaining followers of that Man they called the Messiah. Just 3 days before they'd seen all their dreams, all their hopes vanish at the foot of the cross. That plus the fact that their Savior had been labeled as a complete fraud and executed like a common criminal. It was not a good day. But, they came to the tomb. They came to honor their Friend, their Savior, that Man they lovingly called Jesus. But it turned into a beautiful day, so calm, so peaceful.

PIANO SOLO – ROGER WILLIAMS - "Easter Medley (In the Garden/He Arose)"

#### BENEDICTION - RHS

RHS: Now may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. And may God give you His peace in your going out and in your coming in; in your lying down and in your rising up; in your labor and in your leisure; in your laughter and in your tears until you come to stand before Jesus in that day in which there is no sunset and no dawning. Have a great week. Thank you.

#### HYMN - "It's Easter! It's Easter!"

It's Easter! It's Easter! The stone's rolled away! It's Easter! It's Easter! This is the Lord's Day. New faith for the doubter, new joy to the sad, our Savior walks with us to make our hearts glad.

It's Easter! It's Easter! Christ lives once again! It's Easter! It's Easter! God's loudest "Amen!" We sing "Hallelujah," we sing "Praise the Lord", Who raised up our Jesus and spoke the last word.