

The Resurrection of our Lord
Sermon Text: Luke 24:1-12
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Date preached: March 31, 2013

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Upon these words all is now different for us. Jesus did the one thing that no human being has ever done, from Adam and Eve to the last child that will ever be born. Christ triumphed over the power of death. Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Behold what was told in Scripture, and in particular 1 Corinthians 15:22. “For as in Adam all die...” Evidence of death is all around us. The examples are too numerous to name. Not even the most dedicated church goer is immune.

This is precisely though why Jesus endured the cross. He traveled the road that leads to death in order to free us from its power. “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” It starts first with Jesus. “Then at his coming those who belong to Christ.”

You who belong to Christ have been made alive. Instead of weeping, despairing as people without hope, our Lord has turned weeping into dancing. In

the midst of our lives we come to the deep questions about suffering. Why is this happening? Why does God allow poverty, great injustices perpetrated against the church, the horrific effects of diseases that leave us a shell of a person?

Some of you gathered here this Easter morning may be wondering what difference Christ's rising makes. The difference is that these things, while for us may feel like an eternity, do not have the final victory over our lives. The darkness of that long tunnel of despair that we find ourselves in is now shattered with the joy of his never fading light.

That is the hope to which we cling. It is hope that comes from the saving faith God gives us. For that gift of faith bids us to believe that Christ truly is risen.

It was no hoax. This is not some prediction akin to a furry groundhog predicting an early spring. It also isn't a flippant salve that we put on the gaping wounds of our lives.

Christ is the one who in rising from the dead has declared that all the enemies of illnesses, injustices, evil, the devil himself and death are not the final message upon our lives.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, there are countless witnesses to this great news of Christ's victory. They include the hundreds that saw Jesus alive. These people spoke with him, ate with him, and saw him ascend into heaven.

Throughout the history of the church, people continue to bear witness to Christ. Such witness is seen as people come to receive Jesus who promises to be present in, with and under the elements of bread and wine. The witness of the saints is evidenced in the proclaimed Word of God from Scripture. Many have given witness to the faith with their very lives, as servants or as martyrs.

We too may count ourselves among the great witnesses of the Lord's resurrection. It is a witness to Christ's final victory that will come. For when he comes again, all these things that threaten, scare and intimidate us will be put to an end.

It is with that sure and certain hope that we live our lives in thanksgiving and praise for what God has done in Christ. Our lives become lives of witness. Even in the face of our questions, including those similar to the ones of the first disciples who saw Jesus face to face, we live in hope and thankfulness.

To say that Christ is risen is to rejoice. In this way we can borrow the language from today's psalm.

Christ has risen. "My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the Pit. You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!