

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice & be glad in it. (v24)

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive & has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds & hearts the risen life we share with Christ, & help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Matthew 28:1-10

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene & the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came & rolled back the stone & sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, & his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook & became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly & tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, & indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear & great joy, & ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them & said, "Greetings!" & they came to him, took hold of his feet, & worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go & tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

- Review the "Passion Predictions" referenced in v6: *Matthew 16:21-28, 17:22-23, 20:17-19, 26:1-2* (see also *1 Corinthians 15:3-4*). How do they shed light on the following Old Testament passages which model/prophesy/suggest the Messiah's resurrection? *Genesis 3:15, 22:1-18 (cf. Hebrews 11:17-19); Psalm 2:7 (cf. Acts 13:33), 16:1-11 (cf. Acts 2:25-28, 13:35-37), 22:1-31 esp. vv14-15, 25-27, 40:1-3, 110:1; Job 14:4, 19:25-26; Isaiah 53:8-10; Hosea 6:2; Zechariah 12:10; Jonah 1:17 (cf. Matthew 12:40)* Note: at least some are not immediately obvious; check surrounding verse for additional context.
- Read *John 20:(3-5) 8-9*. Notice that belief precedes St. John's understanding (cf. *20:22, 16:12-15; Luke 24:44-47*). It appears that the women in v9 are in a similar situation. How is it OK to believe God's word even when one doesn't fully understand it? See *1 Corinthians 2:12-14; Philippians 4:7; Colossians 1:9; 2Peter 1:21-22; 1 John 5:20* Where does understanding come from?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

- What's the best part about Easter to you? What's your favorite Easter memory? Tradition? Song? How can you pass on those traditions to the next generation of your family & friends, without causing them to "look for the living among the dead" (cf. *Luke 24:5*)?
- How confident are you in the claims that Jesus was physically, historically, really resurrected? That we too will be resurrected just like him on the Last Day? Remember the claim is that so far Jesus alone has already been resurrected; we will receive it much later. See *Isaiah 25:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:12-28, 51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:12-15, 21:1-8* How can you find encouragement toward this simple truth & fact of Jesus' resurrection? See *Mark 9:14-29, esp. v24; Small Catechism: Creed; SC available bookofconcord.org*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

- Many folks find great comfort & encouragement that they can attend Easter & Christmas worship (& family events) despite their absence the rest of the year; how can you be a gracious, sharing host & not a guilt tripper?
- Who is God putting in your everyday life for you to tell about salvation through Jesus' death & resurrection? People in your life are waiting to hear from you about the difference Jesus makes.

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First Sunday of Easter
Series: Forged by the Spirit

04.09.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Our Lord's Resurrection
*Tell everyone you know about salvation
through His death & resurrection*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Go quickly & tell his disciples,
'He has been raised from the dead, & indeed he is going ahead of you to
Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you. (v7)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed.
Therefore, let us keep the feast. (*1 Corinthians 5:7, 8*)

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