

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; 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)*

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8

## 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- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers & sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, & that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers & sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, & his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim & so you have come to believe.

## LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. Review the “Passion Predictions” referenced in *Mark 16:7*, as well as *8:34-9:1*; *9:33-37*; *10:35-45* (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*); *Psalms 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.*
2. The gospel of Jesus' death for the forgiveness of our sins is of first importance (v3). St. Paul works out how the resurrection matters to this in *vv12-28*, *50-56*. What issues in today's church crowd out this primary message? What happens to the Church if it loses this message? See *Revelation 2:1--3:22*

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

3. 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*)?
4. 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](http://bookofconcord.org)*

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

5. 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?
6. 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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He Lives!

*Jesus lives, where even hope has died*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE: He was buried, & that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures (v4)**

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-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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