

Easter Sunday/The Resurrection of Our Lord

4-17--2022

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor

Celebrate (Introduction)

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death,” Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We come together in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Hymn: [“Christ Is Risen! Alleluia”](#)

Psalmody: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-14

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

¹⁶ the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

¹⁸ The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.^[a]”

Hymn of Praise: [“Thine Is the Glory”](#)

Prayer of the Day

“O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.. Amen.”

1st Reading: [Acts 10:34-43](#)

2nd Reading: [1 Corinthians 15:19-26](#)

The Gospel: [Luke 24:1-12](#)

Hymn: [“The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”](#)

The Message: ([Audio Link](#))

This morning we gather together, along with millions of Christians throughout the world, in order to celebrate the empty tomb, the resurrection, and renewed life. Even during the predawn hours, Christians began their celebration of the resurrection with numerous traditions. We share with them the ultimate experience which those women two thousand years ago could have experienced. They went in the predawn hours to the tomb of their friend to do the painful task of preparing His body for final burial, a task of love but which they must have dreaded.

They were still in a deep state of mourning since it was only three days ago that they had experienced seeing their friend Jesus suffer the humiliation of being rejected, tortured, and then die the extremely painful death of being a criminal, the death of the cross. To see a loved one die in such a manner has got to be the most agonizing experiences one can ever imagine going through. Although Jesus gave them the warning, they were not prepared for this life changing event since it was just a few days prior that they celebrated Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and then together celebrated Passover in the quiet seclusion of the that upper room. In what seemed a flash all that changed. He was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to the cross. In a matter of hours Jesus was placed upon the cross and then his subsequent death.

When you think about it everything moved so fast. This all happened in a matter of hours. What appeared to be the life of the rising Messiah was ended just like that. The hopes and dreams of His follower came to an abrupt ending. They found out how fast life can change and how suddenly life can become so cruel. What now? Immediately their thought must have turned to the fact that they too were now in danger for being associated with Jesus. Their future was now in question. How could life ever be the same? How could life ever hold anything good for them? Why did God ever allow something like this happen especially to us?

Sound familiar? All of us have experienced bad times in life when we think what good can happen? Can life ever be worth it again since life will never be the same? Living through the height of the pandemic all of this probably came to our minds. Together we experienced the trauma and the feeling of hopelessness in face of Covid's mysterious tentacles which kept us in isolation with no end in sight. Now, even with the vaccines and precautions the virus lives on in the form of mutations. Although we have been able to live with this disease, life will never be the same for it is continually making changes in every aspect of our lives- some perhaps which are good but others which seem detrimental. But the virus still presents uncertainty within our lives.

To add to the problems which we have been living through is the tragic war in the Ukraine which threatens the stability of the whole world. The problems which we are facing seem to be never ending. Each threaten not only our present living but the very future of our existence, Therefore, we can identify with those women so long ago. Life seems to never be without its challenges. For this reason we all can readily identify with Job as he faced the disasters in his life. "I loathe my life, I will give free utterance to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul, I will say to God, Do not condemn me; let me know why you contend against me."

Like Job in his time of torment, it is so easy to lash out against God or whoever during the difficult times and experiences in life. It is so easy to condemn and blame. It is also easy to try to run away and hide or like the ostrich which places its head in a hole in the ground. We try to avoid all of life and its responsibilities. It, in fact, is making the excuse that because of my circumstance is owe nothing to anybody or anything. It is saying I am not capable of love. I no longer can dream dreams or have any hope. Woe is me. Therefore, my life is one big pity party.

All of us have had glimpses of such feelings at one time or another. But life is much more than the negatives and disasters. It is full of good as well. If we dwell upon the negatives than we will never see the good and experience dreams fulfilled. Turning back to that morning two thousand years ago, when the women arrived at the tomb they were already experiencing the deep despair of life. Everything was dark and bleak to them. How could life treat them any worse. But then things did get even worse. They found the tomb had been opened and the body of Jesus was nowhere to be found. Immediately their thought turned to His body being stolen. This had to be that awful moment in which life reached the very depths of heartache and despair. Their lives couldn't have sunken any lower. They were facing what they thought to be the ultimate challenge.

But God didn't leave them in their moment of deep despair Luke records, "...suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.'" You can imagine what the women must have thought. Their minds clouded with despair and then to suddenly hear these words must have left them thinking that they were hearing things which were just wishful thinking on their part. They had to be looking at each other in total disbelief and saying to themselves "Leave us alone in our despair and morning. Don't play cruel jokes on us."

Their disbelief must have been quite evident for the men went on to verify what they had just said. “Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” With these words the women remembered and were assured that what they were told was the truth.

Can you imagine the emotional roller coaster ride which they went through in just those short minutes – from the very depth of an emotional low to the height of learning the very unthinkable joyful news. In an emotional state totally opposite of when they went to the tomb they returned with a renewed life in their step. They probably couldn’t have waited to tell the disciples the news. But it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women who were with them, who excitedly told the eleven what had happened. Being at an emotional low in their lives also the disciples couldn’t process what they were being told and just dismissed what they had been told as just idle talk or some wild collective imagination and wishful thinking among the women.

Peter though had to see for himself. He ran to the tomb and we are told “Stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, at what had happened.” But it wouldn’t be until later when the resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciple that they would finally be assured that the message of the women was true. God did not abandon His followers but presented them with the news of a new life.

It is through the lives of Jesus’ follower’s experiences of the empty tomb we come to believe that God’s plan of love never leaves us without hope or in With the words “He is risen” even the greatest disaster in life, death, no longer became the final negative. The empty tomb, the Risen Christ, overcame the finality of death. It turned death into new life with God. The greatest of life’s negatives or disasters was turned into the greatest positive. Through faith the risen Christ gives us the ultimate fulfillment of God’s love to be lived forever.

Therefore, life’s negatives, the disasters and trying circumstances we may experience, are doors to be opened in order to step into a new life filled with hope and dreams to be fulfilled. This is what we see happening to not only the women on that first Easter morning but also the disciples This is what happens when we are able, through faith, to join with all the saints of old in their unending proclamation, “ He is Risen , He is risen indeed.” Therein we open the door to the new life of today and tomorrow. Yes, “He is Risen!!!”

Anthem: [“Hallelujah Chorus” Mormon Tabernacle Choir](#)

Offering*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

The Prayer

Ever Loving God, today we celebrate the good news of the empty tomb with its message of forgiveness, hope, and your eternal love. In a world which is involved with the challenges of Covid19 and its mutations as well as experiencing a war which could easily dominate all life with unimaginable destructive power, we need the power of your presence as found in the resurrection. May this power enter our lives and bring hope and peace. Especially may this powerful presence within us help to bring needed assistance to those who are suffering not only because of the disasters of war but from the unavoidable disasters of life.

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially Bob and Pat Allen, Eugene Ash, Pam Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, the Cronin family, Leo Dickel, Dotty Gibson, Nancy Griebel, the Johnson Family, Robert Karner, David Kieffer, Pam Lambert, Charles Larsen, Donna Mayhew, the McNamara family, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, Brenda Penyak, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Esther and Buck Trautwein,, Pastor Jack,
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you;
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters
Live on knowing God's love,
The joy of living this life of love,
And the peace which only comes through the power of His presence within you.
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: ["Jesus Christ is Risen Today"](#)

Announcements

Sunday April 24, Retirement Service of Pastor Jack Trautwein

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive

Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043

<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291