

## Easter 2024

### The Resurrection

**24** But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup> And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” <sup>8</sup> And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, <sup>11</sup> but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

### On the Road to Emmaus

<sup>13</sup> That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**

<sup>28</sup> So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, <sup>29</sup> but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> **And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.** <sup>32</sup> **They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”**

<sup>33</sup> And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup> saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

### **Jesus Appears to His Disciples**

<sup>36</sup> As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” <sup>37</sup> But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate before them.

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, **“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”** <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, **“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”** (Lk 24:1–49)

### **The Bible tells the one true story of Jesus — it all points to Jesus.**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:1–3)

After Jesus’ resurrection — we see Jesus open their minds by showing them / helping them understand the Scriptures — from Moses, the Prophets, and Psalms — Jesus helps them see and understand how this IS God’s perfect plan to bring about salvation for those who trust in Him.. Do you believe? Can you see?

\*\*\* This week — a young man was at our college gathering and heard the Gospel clearly proclaimed. He had grown up in the Hindu belief system. Our pastors got a message yesterday that later that evening, he placed his faith in Jesus. He believes. He sees! Heaven is rejoicing!

**A genuine response to Jesus is two fold: faith (I believe! ) and proclamation (do you believe?)**

- Did our hearts not burn? The Lord is risen indeed!
- Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.

At our Good Friday service — I came into that evening with a genuine burden for our people to trust fully in the work of Christ on the cross — it's one thing to believe that history is true, that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, died, buried, and rose on the third day.. that IS true. It's another thing to believe why He died and what His death means...

Do you trust Jesus – with your sin and shame and failures...  
Do you trust the grace of God by faith?

To fully trust that we are forgiven changes the way that we live towards God and other people. God's grace indeed changes us, day by day.

Colossians 2:13-15 (ESV): Alive in Christ

13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

As you received Jesus the Lord (by faith)... so walk in him (by faith)

Rooted, built up, established, marked by thanksgiving

Don't be taken captive by empty deceit...

Christ lives in you — and has changed you —and God can work powerfully in and through you.

You were dead... and God has made you alive with Him

Forgiven us all our trespasses — canceling the record of debt,

nailing it to the cross, triumphing over evil

WE BELIEVE THIS!

That burden I described... that we would believe on Good Friday our sins were truly paid for by Jesus... My burden this morning... is that on Easter — as we celebrate His resurrection — you would know we aren't just waiting for eternity and the eternal comforts of heaven, but that if you trust Jesus today, then you have life, purpose, and His presence in you NOW.

Colossians 3:1–4 (ESV): Put On the New Self

3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Seek the things that are above... don't assume all your priorities honor God.  
Set your minds on things that are above... don't assume everything you think is right.  
For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.  
When Christ WHO IS YOUR LIFE APPEARS, then you will also appear with him in glory.

This is what that looks like — there is a clear putting off our old selves... and putting on our new selves every day. A very real old vs new. There is who you were .... And now who you ARE.  
There is who you were before Christ was the Lord of your life.  
Now there is who you are with Christ as the Lord of your life.  
Jesus has not only saved you from the penalty of your sin...  
He is also saving you from yourselves.

**Happy Easter!**

**What do you need to put back on the Cross?**

**What needs to die in your life?**

Colossians 3:5-11

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

The cross of Christ is where this sin belongs — he bore our sins in his body on the cross. Leave them there. Bring them there. Keep bringing them there.

To trust in Jesus means you can walk away from this type of living...

This is not religious legalism or about human morality...

This is what it looks like to be renewed by God as an image bearer of God who created you.

He is none of these evil things.... And He only wants what is best for you.

He made you, loves you, and has redeemed you in Christ Jesus. Trust Him.

Jesus is better.

**Happy Easter!**

**What does life look like as a follower of our Risen King?**

Colossians 3:12-17

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

You can put on compassion...

You can put on kindness

You can choose humility

You can be patient

You can bear with one another

You can forgive one another

As the Lord has forgiven you.... You MUST also forgive.

Unforgiveness is not an option for followers of Jesus.

You can put on love.

You can let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

You can be thankful.

You can read, listen, know, trust and believe the words of Christ

You can live in authentic gospel community

You can sing with thankfulness

**Whatever you do — in word and deed — do EVERYTHING in the name of the Lord Jesus as you give thanks to God the Father through him....**