

Sunday – Easter Cantata/Worship 04/20/25 – Message **Panama Methodist Church**

Sermon Title: *“The Road to Redemption” Sermon Series: Part 7 of 7 – “Jesus Is Alive!” Matthew 28:1-10*

(Slides 1-5 will be listed in order throughout this sermon 😊!)

Brothers and sisters, He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! I can imagine that some people come to an Easter Cantata, and that sometimes there is no preaching, just the Cantata itself. I do know that some folks that are in this service this morning though might not be able to come to our 10:15 AM service. As a result, I felt the Spirit move me to give a short message in this service. Afterall, this is the day is that cements our Christian faith together. For without the resurrection of Jesus, there is no Christian faith.

This morning, I declare to you, to myself, and to everyone watching this online that “Jesus is Alive!” When I say that Jesus is alive, I do not just mean in our hearts, or that his disciples had some sort of spiritual epiphany on this day, or that there was some sort of other spiritual revelation. What I am saying is that on this day, Jesus physically stood up in his tomb and walked out of it alive. Saying that today is about resurrection and new life, is not the same thing as saying that “Jesus is Alive!” Not just alive in our hearts, but that today he was physically alive again! There were countless eyewitnesses during Jesus’ 40-days of post resurrection appearances, as Jesus ate with his disciples during these 40-days of

post resurrection appearances. Jesus also invited the Apostle Thomas to touch his crucifixion wounds. Today, on this Easter or “Resurrection Sunday,” Jesus Christ our Lord is alive! Jesus conquered the grave, and He proved that He could lay His life down and pick it back up three days later. For Jesus Christ our Lord, God in the flesh, is alive!

With this said, I want to read and discuss one of the gospel narratives of Jesus’ resurrection, as all four gospels have a narrative of Jesus’ resurrection. In this service we will look at Matthew 28:1-10, and at the 10:15 AM service we will look at John 20:1-18. I would invite you to open your bibles or bible apps on your phones or smart devices, as we look at the resurrection of Jesus narrative from Matthew 28:1-10. This is what it says:

Slide 1 – (“Matthew 28:1”)

Matthew 28:1-10, NRSV

The Resurrection of Jesus

28 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

Slide 2 – (“Matthew 28:2-3”)

Matthew 28:1-10, NRSV

² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

Slide 3 – (“Matthew 28:4-5”)

Matthew 28:1-10, NRSV

⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

Slide 4 – (“Matthew 28:6-7”)

Matthew 28:1-10, NRSV

⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’

Slide 5 – (“Matthew 28:8-10”)

Matthew 28:1-10, NRSV

⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

In Matthew 28:1-10, we hear that after the Sabbath, which is the Jewish day of rest from Friday night to Saturday night, that “the first day of week was dawning.” The first day of the week is of course Sunday, and dawning means that

the sun was coming up. So as the sun was rising, and Mary Magdalene and the “other Mary,” who is often identified as Mary the mother of James and Joses are headed to Jesus’ tomb. Remember that Jesus was entombed on Friday, before the sun went down, in the tomb of Joseph or Arimathea. Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and Joses, were headed to this tomb.

Suddenly though as the two Mary’s were headed to Jesus’ tomb, there was a great earthquake, and angel of the Lord descend from heaven. This angel of the Lord rolled back the stone on front of Jesus’ tomb and then sat on it. According to our Matthew 28:1-10 reading for this morning, this angel of the Lord had an appearance that looked like lightning, his clothes were as white as snow. Further, the guards that were guarding Jesus’ tomb out of fear began to shake and “became like dead men,” as they must have collapsed. At this point, this angel of the Lord told the two Mary’s this morning, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.” The angel of the Lord then said of Jesus, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him”. The angel of the Lord then concluded this conversation with the two Mary’s saying, “This is my message for you.”

As you can imagine the two Mary’s were full of joy that Jesus was resurrected, alive, and that they were going to see Him soon! With this this joy the two Mary’s ran ahead to tell the disciples all they had heard and had seen. This

gospel of Matthew 28:1-10 reading then says, “Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” At this the two Mary’s came to the resurrected Christ, “took ahold of his feet, and worshipped him.” If Jesus were not physically resurrected from the dead, then how could the two Mary’s hold His feet? Jesus then told both Mary’s “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

As we will hear in the resurrection of Jesus narrative from John 20:1-18 at our 10:15 AM service this morning, there are variations in the four gospel accounts of Jesus’ resurrection. What is the same in all four gospel accounts though, is an empty tomb, and a physically resurrected Jesus Christ. Today my brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ our Lord is alive! He is alive in us, and today proves that our faith in Christ, our forgiveness in Christ, our eternity in Christ, and the eternal kingdom of God will never end for those who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ! Happy Easter and Amen.