

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

March 30, 2026

THE VAIL CHURCH Easter

Craig Smith • Easter • April 5, 2026

If a man dies, will he live again? (Job 14:14a)

Easter - the answer to the question...

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with 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; He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" (Luke 24:1-7)

All of the Christian "Easter eggs" are in the resurrection basket - *"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless...your faith is futile; you are still in your sins...If the dead are not raised, 'Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die.'" (1 Cor. 15:14, 17, 32b)*

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Cor. 15:20)

Where the risen Lord meets us to change us...

• **In our grief** - *“‘Woman,’ He said, ‘Why are you crying? Who is it that you are looking for?’ Thinking He was the gardener, she said, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means Teacher).” (John 20:15-16)*

• **In our doubt** - *“Unless I see...and put my finger where the nails were...I will not believe... ‘Peace be with you!’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.’” (John 20:25b, 26b-27)*

• **In our confusion** - *“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself... They asked each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened up the Scriptures to us?’” (Luke 24:27, 32)*

• **In our regret** - *“When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?’... ‘Feed my lambs...Take care of my sheep...Feed my sheep.’” (John 21:15-17)*

• **In our anger** - *“‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads’... ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.’” (Acts 26:14b, 16)*

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even if he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)