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This is a QR code that will take you to an information page on our newly designed website. Just point your cell phone camera at the code and then click on the "subsplash" link. ("Subsplash" is our site host.)

April 5, 2026



The Purpose

From here to heaven... Following God wherever He leads us.

Commentary from a common Terry *An unexpected character*

Sometimes it doesn't take much for someone to become famous or be recognized when there was not a lot actually done.

In the 1976 movie *Network*, Beatrice Straight played Louise Schumaker, the scorned wife of TV news division executive Max Schumaker. Straight was nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Oscar. She was up against some pretty stiff competition. Jodie Foster, Jane Alexander, Lee Grant, and Piper Laurie were also nominated.

Straight won the Oscar. She was on the screen in the movie a grand total of **five minutes and forty seconds**. It's a two-hour movie. It's the shortest performance ever to win the award.

One doesn't have to be featured for long to not only be noticed, but to become famous.

That leads me to Barabbas. Out of more than 3,700 verses in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, His name is mentioned in only ten verses. Out of the nearly 8,000 verses in the New Testament, ten verses mention Barabbas. Out of the 31,102 verses in the Bible, he's mentioned in ten of them.

He was never actual on scene. He didn't have any lines. His movements weren't described. He was an actor in this real-life drama that never came out from behind the curtain.

And yet, there he is, as well-known as some of the most featured men and women in the Bible.

He was in a Jerusalem Roman jail, no doubt under a death sentence, perhaps scheduled for execution. Matthew referred to him as "...a notorious prisoner..." (Matthew 27:16)

Barabbas was a part of a failed insurrection against the Romans, labeled as a murderer by both Mark and Luke. (Mark 15:7; Luke 23:19) John called him a robber. (John 18:40)

And that's all we know. He probably could not have cared less about whatever it was outside his cell that had the city thrown into turmoil. Or maybe he was hearing the chatter outside the locked door and he knew what was happening. But I'm sure he didn't believe it would ever reach him. It certainly wouldn't release him to freedom. He was a man either prepared to die for his crimes or regretting his choices and loyalties.

Each Passover, the shrewd politician Pilate would release one prisoner of the Jews' choosing.

That's just smart politics. It was the *Paschal Pardon*. It is clear when we read more about Pilate that he did not see a reason to kill Jesus and didn't want to. The *Paschal Pardon* was his way out. He offered the Jews a ridiculous choice. "Do I release Jesus, called the Christ, or (and you can almost hear the distaste in his voice) *Barabbas*?"

And there sits Barabbas in his dirty prison, perhaps completely unaware that his life and fate was now at the center of conversation among the most powerful men in the city. Oblivious. I doubt it ever crossed his mind to get himself nominated for *Paschal Pardon* status.

The chief priests and Jewish leaders convinced the crowd to ask for *Barabbas*. In essence, they said he was more acceptable to walk free in the land than the gentle, peaceful Rabbi from Nazareth. I wonder if Pilate, at any point, thought as he looked at them, "These guys are a joke." What he did realize was that Jesus' and Barabbas' fates were not worth his career. Give them both to the Jews and be done with it.

Barabbas, stunned beyond belief, was hauled out of his jail cell and released. At the same time, Pilate had Jesus scourged and delivered to the trained executioners. (Mark 15:15) Nothing made sense in any of this...except that God chose this to happen. To offer His son, the Lamb. To do this one last act to get the point across. "My Son will take on the punishment of the worst of the worst."

So the people cried out, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas!" (Luke 23:18)

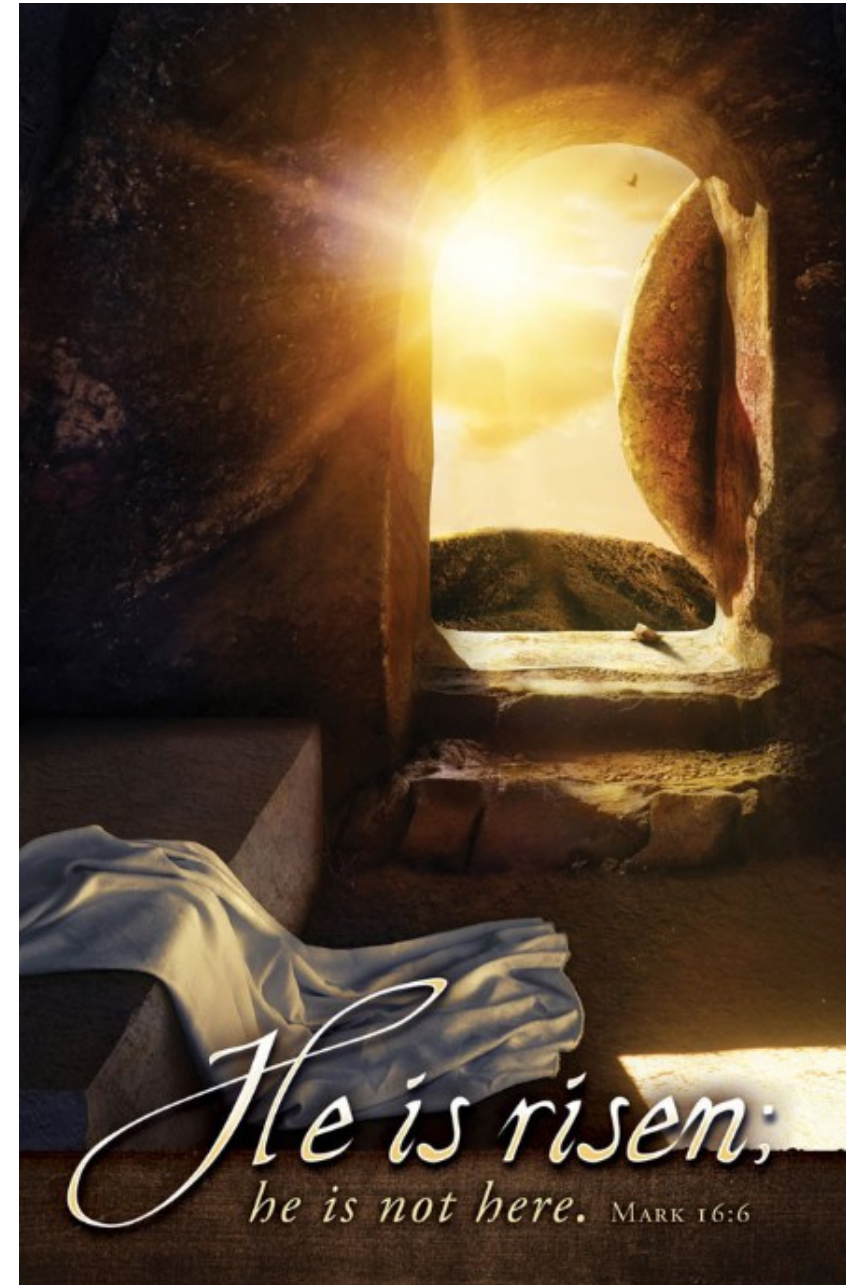
Give us **Barabbas**! In their language, the common use of "bar" means "son" and the common meaning of "abba" means "father." In our translation, they cried, "Give us the son of the father." All the while, they were sending the Son of the Father to the cross where he had to go in order to save the ones who rejected him.

Did Barabbas stick around? Was he part of the crowd to watch Jesus die, wondering who had replaced him?

Do you stop and wonder at the One that replaced you?

Love one another,

Terry



Have a blessed
and joyful
Resurrection Sunday!

Today's Order of Worship

I Stand Amazed
I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

Elder Blessing & Prayer

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed?
Lamb of God

We Remember Christ's Sacrifice

Contribution Collected
I Gave My Life For Thee

Ten Thousand Angels

Prayer

Scripture Reading:
Colossians 3:1-4

Sermon
You Know

He Lives

Unison Reading:
I Corinthians 15:56-57

Low In the Grave
Christ, the Lord, Is Risen Today

Upcoming events, opportunities, and reminders:

The *Women's Bible Study* group meets this coming Tuesday, April 7th at 10 a.m. in the home of Barb Henderson. (You can get the address from the office.) All the ladies are invited to join us.

The *Grandparents At Prayer* group meets on Wednesday, April 8th, at 10 a.m. The group meets in room #14 at the building. Please join us as we pray for our grandchildren. If you have questions or need more information, check with LaNelle Newton.

The Kitchen is **OPEN** this Wednesday, the 8th, at 11 a.m. at the building. You are encouraged to join us as we prepare burritos and distribute them at the homeless shelter.

The April *Men's Breakfast* is next Saturday, the 11th. We usually eat at about 8:30 a.m. If you would like to help get things ready and set up, please be there by 8:15 a.m. All the men, teen guys, and boys are invited to join us.

The Brush Church of Christ will host a *Ladies' Day* next Saturday, the 11th. Check the flyer in the lobby. Let Cyndi know if you plan to go so transportation can be planned.

Serenity, Natalie, and Charlee are all three in the University School's production of *James and the Giant Peach*. Performances are on April 10th, 11th, and 12th. A flyer is in the lobby.... **Carley Jo Goggans** will be performing in an opera at UNC on Saturday, April 18th. She will have a solo in *Opera In Bloom: Opera Gala*, which presents songs from several operas. You should have received an email with ticket information.

The *MSCH Food Drive* is underway. There is information in the lobby as to what you can bring.

Tom & Amber Odle are getting ready to join the grandparents club! **Jesse & Sydney Pope** (Sydney is their daughter) in Kansas are expecting as the due date is May 9th. They do not know if it is boy or girl. We'll be praying for everything to go well and all to be healthy.

The kids' worship handout is on the table at the back of the auditorium.

Fellowship room adult class update: Randy will finish the book of Philippians today. Tom will resume his textual study of the Gospel of John next Sunday.

The **Wednesday night study group** meets at 6:30 in the fellowship room.

The April Bible study plan guide handout is in the lobby on the table.

Registration is open for the Northern Colorado Christian Camp. Check with Terry for info.

Servers for Worship today (5th)

Scripture Reading Greg Hammer
Prayer Doug Blount

Tom Lininger (communion prayers)
Taylor Hegarty (contribution prayers)
Tyler Blount
Zachary Blount
Ken Clark
Dan Esposito



The Westview Men's Coffee is every Tuesday morning from 6 to 8 a.m. in the fellowship room.

The Westview Women's Coffee is every Wednesday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. in the fellowship room.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.



Prayer reminders

We do not include personal information, such as the prayer list in our online bulletin. If you would like that information, it is available in the hard copy bulletin at the building. Or, you can contact the church office to receive a copy.