

Welcome and Introduction

A warm welcome to you all and I am glad you were able to join us this morning! Christ has risen! Halleluiah! The Lord has risen! He has risen indeed! We are here with our hearts full of joy and heaven and earth rejoice for Christ has risen! He is our everlasting joy.

Let's pray

Lord Jesus we rejoice because death could not hold you and You were raised to life, alive for evermore. Lord, we ask that you would please strengthen us through your resurrecting power, fill our hearts with strength for today, hope for tomorrow and help us to rest firmly in your promise of eternal life. We offer to you our worship and praise. In your holy name we pray, Amen

Song 1 – Resurrecting (Elevation Worship)

<https://youtu.be/KwcrBEwc-Gw> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now
The Saviour knelt to wash our feet
Now at His feet we bow

The One who wore our sin and shame
Now robed in majesty
The radiance of perfect love
Now shines for all to see

Your name, your name is victory
All praise, will rise to Christ, our king

The fear that held us now gives way
To Him who is our peace
His final breath upon the cross
Is now alive in me

*By Your spirit I will rise from the ashes of defeat
The resurrected King, is resurrecting me
In Your name I come alive to declare Your victory
The resurrected King, is resurrecting me*

The tomb where soldiers watched in vain
Was borrowed for three days
His body there would not remain
Our God has robbed the grave
Our God has robbed the grave

Song 2 – Living Hope (Phil Wickham)

<https://youtu.be/9f2FXxDVO6w> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation, I turned to heaven
And spoke your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The king of kings calls me His own
Beautiful saviour, I'm yours forever
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the roaring lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus, yours is the victory, whoa!

Intercessory Prayer by Mary Marriot

Song 3 – King of Kings (Hill Song Worship)

<https://youtu.be/Of5lcFWiEpg> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light
Till from Heaven You came running, there was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets to a virgin came the word
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father, praise the Son praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty! Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross

For even in your suffering You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation Jesus for our sake you died

And the morning that You rose all of Heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name in His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me

Message:

Easter Sunday – He Has Risen!

We are going to be reading from one of the accounts of Jesus' resurrection and I am reading from **Luke 24:1-8** *1 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. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 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? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."' 8 Then they remembered his words.*

Introduction

He Has Risen! Three words that changed everything forever and perhaps they are the three most important words ever spoken. Words of confidence joy and hope! Words that communicate the truth which if you let it, will transform your life! It may completely transform your home, work place, family, friendships and your relationships. It may transform the way you feel, on your best and worst days. It may transform the way you feel even in such a difficult season we are living in right now with this pandemic. He Has Risen! Jesus rose from the dead! It really happened. One of the world's leading experts on historical facts about Jesus once said: *"There is absolutely abundant historical evidence, beyond all reasonable doubt that Jesus lived and died."* But the really interesting questions are: Did He Die and Live? Did He rise from the dead? Did He rise again? This may be your question here today... Today may be your first time in church or you may have been coming to church for a long time. Perhaps you have never really stopped to think about this before. Did Jesus rise from the dead? If He did what difference does it make in my life? You may have been coming to church for many years, but are still sitting there and thinking. Is it true? I wish I had more confidence about this truth. This is such an important question. Just think about if someone; a friend, a relative, or a family member came to you and asked you this question. Did it really happen? How would you respond? This person may come and say 'I've been exploring the Christian faith and I would love to know if you don't mind. Why do you

believe that Jesus actually rose from the dead? What would you say? There are some good books written by experts on this subject on the facts and evidences of the resurrection. But today I would like us to look at three of them and how I would answer this question and these are the reasons I believe Jesus rose from the dead:

I – Jesus Was Not in 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. Luke 24:2-3 Jesus was not in the tomb on Easter day. Mary Magdalene, Joana, Mary the mother of James, and other women with them went to the tomb and to their surprise, the stone, that had sealed the tomb, was rolled away. The stone was about 1.5 to 2 tons in weight and it was rolled away from the tomb. The tomb was well protected and it had been guarded by a group of Roman soldiers, specifically to prevent anyone from messing around with it. But the stone had been rolled away and when they went inside the tomb, Jesus’ body wasn’t there. No one had ever come up with a satisfactory explanation for why Jesus’ body was not in the tomb on Easter day. The authorities wouldn’t have taken it. They had no reason to have taken it. They were actually trying to prevent anyone from taking it. And if the authorities had taken it, when everyone started going around saying, “Jesus is alive!” They would have stopped them and said, ‘no here He is. We’ve got him.” The fearful and scattered disciples, who were in hiding, had no reason to have taken the body. Robbers couldn’t have come near as the tomb was heavily guarded. What is really interesting is that the body of Jesus was absent but the tomb was not empty. In the tomb folded up on the side was Jesus’ linen clothes lying by themselves. So even if the robbers did take his body, why didn’t they also steal his clothes?

II – Jesus Was With People

“While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” Luke 24:36 Jesus was absent from the tomb, but he was present with people. We read in the scripture that Jesus appeared on eleven separate occasions to people. On one occasion, there were more than 500 hundred people present. People saw him, He spoke to them, He ate with them, and He showed them His hands and feet with marks of the nails from the cross. Jesus wasn’t only absent from the tomb. Jesus was with people!

III – Seeing Jesus changed people

“...and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:47b Look at the immediate impact on people’s lives. The disciples had been discouraged, depressed, fearful and hiding. Then three days after Jesus’ death, something changed. They began running around saying to everyone. ‘Jesus is alive!’ They spoke boldly of what they had seen and heard. Even with the risks of punishment, torture and death. Some of them were risking their lives but they said we cannot help but speak of what we have seen and heard. What made the difference? They had seen the risen Jesus! And that leads to this phenomenon that we now know, the growth of the church. So many people even now share that their lives have been transformed by this truth and it is just remarkable. Tens of thousands each day are placing their trust on the risen Jesus. People from every ethnicity, every nationality, every continent, every social and economic background are all speaking of a common experience with the risen Jesus. Seeing Jesus changed People.

Conclusion and Implications

I don't know about you, but as I briefly looked into these evidences of the resurrection, I think that they are actually very good evidences! These evidences are really strong and compelling! Many people need to hear this truth today! The Lord has risen! He has risen indeed! With this pandemic, people are going through tremendous difficulties and uncertainties, many people are facing all kinds of problems and many people have lost loved ones. Just like the disciples and the women who saw the risen Jesus shared the good news of the gospel, we too are to preach with confidence about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But what does that mean for you? It means that you can have complete confidence and assurance of your eternal life in Jesus. The son of God loves you and He gave himself for you. He died on the cross! And the resurrection is the final, conclusive, and emphatic public verdict. Jesus is who he claimed to be and he has done what he had claimed to do and every word he spoke is true and you are forgiven, you are free, you are loved, you are redeemed, you are restored, it is done. You can also have complete joy! Jesus has won! Today we are celebrating that Jesus defeated death. He started a renewal of creation and all things. You can have an overflowing joy and an unending hope. He is our living hope because we will also rise again with Him. He has risen! He is not in the tomb! He is with people. He is with you today. The Lord has risen! He has risen indeed. The power of the resurrection of Jesus gives us strength for today and hope for tomorrow. Joy and assurance of our eternal life!

Let's pray...

Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross in our place and we thank you for conquering death, rising in power from that tomb! We acknowledge that you indeed are the son of the living God and that you have the power to save us from our sins and iniquities, bringing us close to the Father and giving us the strength to face our daily challenges. How blessed we are for the gift of eternal life and salvation you've freely given to us. We praise your name and submit to you our present and future, knowing that you are in control of our lives and that your ways are better than our ways. In your name we pray, amen.

Announcements

I would like to ask you please to continue observing the rules of social distancing two meters apart, the use of masks, the two different ways in and out the building, please use hand sanitizer when you come in and also when you leave. There are zoom prayer meetings for the adults, youth and children. Next Sunday is my commission service, there are still a few places available, but you need to book as we can only have 30 people.

Let us finish this service with the Lord's prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.