

He Is Risen! The Resurrection of Jesus and What It Means for You

Key Text: Mark 16:1–8

Doctrinal Focus: The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith, salvation, and eternal life.

I. The Women at the Tomb: A Case Study in Human Expectation

Read: Mark 16:1–8

Observation:

- The women came to the tomb expecting death.
- Their actions (bringing spices) assumed Jesus was still dead.
- The angel's words, "He is risen; He is not here," overturn their expectations.

Key Point: We often live expecting disappointment, but the resurrection calls us to expect divine intervention and victory.

II. What Is the Resurrection of Jesus?

Definition:

The resurrection of Jesus is the historical, physical, bodily rising of Christ from the dead on the third day, as He promised (Luke 24:7).

Key Verses:

- John 11:25 – "I am the resurrection and the life."
- 1 Corinthians 15:3–6, 17–20 – If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile... But in fact Christ has been raised.

Key Point: The resurrection is not a myth, metaphor, or symbol. It is a real, historical event affirmed by:

- Multiple independent eyewitness accounts
- An empty tomb acknowledged by Jesus' enemies (Matthew 28:13)
- The radical transformation and martyrdom of the apostles

Confessional Insight:

"He was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead." — Apostles' Creed, Second Article

III. Why Did Jesus Have to Die—and Rise Again?

Romans 5:8 – "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

2 Corinthians 5:21 – "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin..."

Definition:

Jesus' death was substitutionary. He bore our sin. His resurrection is the declaration of victory: sin paid for, death undone.

Key Point:

Without the resurrection, Jesus' death is a tragedy. Because of the resurrection, His death is our triumph.

IV. How Do We Receive the Benefits of Christ's Resurrection?

Ephesians 2:8–9 – “By grace you have been saved through faith...”

Definition:

Salvation is a free gift. We are saved by grace, through faith, not because of our works, decisions, or feelings.

Romans 6:3–5 – “We were buried with Him by baptism into death...”

1 Peter 3:21 – “Baptism... now saves you.”

Key Point:

Baptism is not symbolic—it is sacramental. In it, we are joined to Christ's death and resurrection.

Confessional Insight:

“To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by men but by God Himself...” – Large Catechism IV:10

V. But What About My Doubts?

Romans 10:17 – “Faith comes from hearing...”

John 20:24–29 – Thomas doubts, yet Jesus shows mercy and confirms His Word.

Key Point:

Faith is not our achievement. It is created and sustained by God's Word. Doubts are not disqualifiers. Christ comes to doubters.

VI. What Does the Resurrection Mean for Me—Now and Forever?

Job 19:25–26 – “I know that my Redeemer lives...”

1 Corinthians 15:20–22 – “As in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

Definition:

Resurrection is not just Christ's story—it is yours. Because He lives, you too shall rise bodily on the Last Day.

Confessional Insight:

“Christ is the firstfruits of those who sleep...” – Explanation of the Apostles' Creed, Third Article

VII. Conclusion & Confession of Faith

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. My sin is forgiven. My death is defeated. My future is secure. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Q: What's the big deal about Easter?

A: Easter is everything. It's the day Jesus rose from the dead—not metaphorically, not spiritually, but *bodily*. He conquered death, and because He lives, we will too.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." – John 11:25

Q: Why did Jesus have to die?

A: Because sin is real, and so is death. We've all fallen short of God's holiness. But out of love, Jesus took our sin onto Himself, died in our place, and gave us His righteousness.

"God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." – Romans 5:8

Q: Do I have to do something to be saved?

A: No. Jesus has done it all. Salvation is **by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone**. Even the faith to believe is God's gift. We don't earn it—we receive it.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith... it is the gift of God, not a result of works." – Ephesians 2:8–9

Q: Well, if that's true, what is baptism? Why do I have to do it?

A: Baptism is not just a symbol—it's a sacred act where God gives His promises in water and Word. He claims us as His own, forgives sins, and gives new life.

"Baptism... now saves you." – 1 Peter 3:21

"We were buried with Him by baptism into death... so we too might walk in newness of life." – Romans 6:4

Q: Why do you say "Christ chose us"?

A: Because Scripture teaches that salvation is God's initiative. Jesus doesn't wait for us to find Him—He comes to us.

"You did not choose me, but I chose you." – John 15:16

Q: What happens after I die?

A: For those in Christ, death is not the end. The soul is with Christ, and the body rests in hope until the resurrection on the Last Day—when Christ will return and raise all the dead.

"I know that my Redeemer lives... and in my flesh I shall see God." – Job 19:25–26

Q: I have doubts. Am I still welcome here?

A: Absolutely. Faith often begins in the midst of questions. Come hear God's Word. Ask, wrestle, listen. Jesus meets us in our weakness and gives peace.

"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." – Romans 10:17