



## **“Resurrection Days”**

Resurrection of Our Lord  
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am, Sunday, March 27, 2016  
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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12

Grace and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

So what is going on with our country?

You know, people are supposed to come together for what's supposed to be a nice event and then there's name calling and fists are thrown and people are fighting until, well all hell breaks loose!

What is coming to America? And you know what I'm talking about.

In the news this week in a mall in New Jersey, the Easter Bunny got into a fist fight with a father of a child. Evidently the father was hoping mad (let it sink in) after his child slipped off the fur-costumed Easter Bunny's lap as they tried to take a picture. It turns out both men had outstanding warrants on unrelated charges, including a warrant on the Easter Bunny for, are you ready, subway turnstile “fare hopping.” You can't make this stuff up.

Whatever happened to the magic of Easter?! Does anyone remember the Easter parades, the promenades with fancy Easter bonnets or other hats?

A chocolate company this year is marketing describing Easter as “the festival of chocolate and loveliness.” Another company says that we can all “make the magic of Easter come alive again.” The way to do that they say is a promotion for people to go and try to find a big chocolate Easter bunny wrapped in gold. Do you think that will help?

I don't know, maybe our expectations are too high, or not high enough. But it's important for Christians to sort all of this out. Jesus gave the world a great commandment to love God and to love our neighbor, but too often people are good at one but not the other, and quite frankly every combination of those two things. We would all agree there is too much violence and hatred in our world. But, we will not magically save ourselves from this situation. We need a savior.

Now we all come to Easter Day for different reasons.

The women disciples came to anoint the body of Jesus. The same women were with

him at the foot of the cross weeping. These same women followed his limp body as they saw it being laid in the tomb, and so they show up on that early Easter morning because they wanted to fulfill an obligation. They wanted to do something for their friend, well he was more than a friend -- Jesus was family.

As the angels confront them they scold the women for looking for the dead, when they needed to be looking for the living.

Not that what they were doing was improper, a proper burial was very important in the time of Jesus. You wanted to take care of the body, to pay ones' respects, and to offer that final send off.

Only Jesus didn't need a final send off. He's alive.

The women are perplexed by what is not there and they're frightened by what is. But they move from the expectation of death to resurrection and a proclamation of Easter.

The disciples too are not expecting these resurrection days. The writer Luke tells us Peter leaves, "amazed" as he thinks about these things to himself. In Luke people "wonder" about things that are hard to understand, and it doesn't mean that they either believe or don't believe.

Martin Luther said that faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by the things we cannot see.

I think the key word for all of us here is "Remember." The angels say "*Remember how he told you.*" "*Remember how he told you.*" We all need to remember, remember Christ in the acts of love to those who are suffering and are marginalized in society. Remember that Christ is with two or three when they are gathered in his name in prayer and praise. Remember that Christ is in, with and under the Holy Easter meal we celebrate in remembrance of him.

These Resurrection Days allow us to change our perceived reality. We can move from death to life, from preparation to praise, from perplexing to joy, from seeking to announcement, from skepticism to amazement.

Touched by the resurrection, life can make sense in spite of all of its challenges, complexities, and bewilderment. "*Remember how he told you...*" That Resurrection faith sometimes works slowly in us. But if we're open to it, it offers strength to meet the days ahead. Even death (and the forces of death) cannot overcome it.

Jesus is alive! Risen for you and for me. Some will think that this is an idle tale, some will be amazed, and some will see the resurrection as the fulfillment of a thousand years of Old Testament prophecy and prayer for God's special purpose for you and for me and all humankind.

For those people who are willing, willing to be bold in faith, life has meaning and the world in the power and gentle rule of Christ is a place of hope rather than fear.

It's your choice, to live in hope and resurrection or to cower in the corners of life.

To love God and neighbor or to give in to fear and hatred.

Living, resurrection living, means living in hope for a better tomorrow, trusting God to defeat the powers of destruction and death, for God to crush all his enemies under his feet.

For a people so bold to accept the message and proclaim of Christ being risen, Easter and the resurrection is more than just a one day festival but it is a day of days, a week of weeks, a year of years, decades of decades of hope-filled existence.

So let the hope of these resurrection days, rather than fear and violence, shape your future and join your voice with the faithful who sing Alleluia, Praise to our God!

Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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