

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice & be glad in it. (v24)

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

John 20:1-18

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive & has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds & hearts the risen life we share with Christ, & help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- John 20:1-18

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb & saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran & went to Simon Peter & the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, & said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, & we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter & the other disciple set out & went toward the tomb... ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb... ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying... ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, & I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around & saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, & I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned & said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers & say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father & your Father, to my God & your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went & announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; & she told them that he had said these things to her.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. V17 is a strange command. What do these passages add to it? *See Luke 12:11-12, 21:14-15 24:25-27, 44-49; John 16:12-15; Acts 1:3; Romans 13:14; 1 Corinthians 2:13; Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:23-24; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:10-12; 1 John 3:1-2*
2. Review the "Passion Predictions" referenced in *Luke 24:6-7- Luke 9:22, 9:43b-45, 18:31-34* (see also *1 Corinthians 15:3-4*). How do they shed light on the following Old Testament passages which model/prophesy/suggest the Messiah's resurrection? *Genesis 3:15, 22:1-18 (cf. Hebrews 11:17-19); Psalm 2:7 (cf. Acts 13:33), 16:1-11 (cf. Acts 2:25-28, 13:35-37), 22:1-31 esp. vv14-15, 25-27, 40:1-3, 110:1; Job 14:4, 19:25-26; Isaiah 53:8-10; Hosea 6:2; Zechariah 12:10; Jonah 1:17 (cf. Matthew 12:40)*
Note: at least some are not immediately obvious; check surrounding verse for additional context.

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What's the best part about Easter to you? What's your favorite Easter memory? Tradition? Song? How can you pass on those traditions to the next generation of your family & friends, without causing them to "look for the living among the dead" (cf. *Luke 24:5*)?
4. How confident are you in the claims that Jesus was physically, historically, really resurrected? That we too will be resurrected just like him on the Last Day? Remember the claim is that so far Jesus alone has already been resurrected; we will receive it much later. *See Isaiah 25:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:12-28, 51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:12-15, 21:1-8* How can you find encouragement toward this simple truth & fact of Jesus' resurrection? *See Mark 9:14-29, esp. v24; Small Catechism: Creed; SC available bookofconcord.org*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Many folks find great comfort & encouragement that they can attend Easter & Christmas worship (& family events) despite their absence the rest of the year; how can you be a gracious, sharing host & not a guilt tripper?
6. How do you explain the implications and significance of "looking for the living among the dead" (cf. *Luke 24:5*) to a pre-Christian or someone who is not a regular, frequent participant in the life of a congregation?

Festival of Our Lord's Resurrection

04.20.25

Series: Growing into New Life

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Encounters with the Living Jesus

Holding on to the Past

St. Mary Magdalene must learn that Jesus will be closer than ever before

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers & say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father & your Father, to my God & your God.’ ” (v17)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. (1 Corinthians 5:7, 8)

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