

## Scripture Lessons for ✕ this Festival of Easter

### Old Testament

#### Exodus 15:1-11 NIV

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted. The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea. 2 The LORD is my Strength and my Song; He has become my Salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him. 3 The LORD is a Warrior; the LORD is His Name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea. 5 The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone. 6 "Your Right Hand, O LORD, was majestic in power. Your Right Hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy. 7 In the greatness of Your majesty You threw down those who opposed You. You unleashed Your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble. 8 By the blast of Your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood firm like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea. 9 "The enemy boasted, 'I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.' 10 But You blew with Your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters. 11 "Who among the gods is like You, O LORD? Who is like you - majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?"

### Epistle


#### I Corinthians 15:1-11

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this Gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the Word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that He was buried, that He was Raised on the Third Day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all He appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

### Gospel (Sermon Text: verses 4-8)

#### Luke 24:1-11

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 into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the Third Day be raised again.'" 8 Then they remembered His Words. 9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ✕ p.7 ✕

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL   
Easter Sunday ✕ *The Resurrection of Our Lord*  
*He's Risen!* March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 ✕ 9:30am Alleluia!!



Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – Mark 16:  
*Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene following His Resurrection.*

Courtesy Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/DIA/detail.cfm?ID=4915>

**1. He is arisen! Glorious Word!  
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;  
The gates of Heav'n are open.  
My Jesus did triumphant die,  
And Satan's arrows broken lie,  
Destroyed hell's direst weapon.**

**Oh, hear  
What cheer!  
Christ victorious  
Riseth glorious,  
Life He giveth-**

**He was dead, but see, He liveth! A-men.**

**OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL**

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809 USA

Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: [www.osllakeland.org](http://www.osllakeland.org)

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✧ A.R. Burmeister 430-5859 ✧ Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

**March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 ✧ Easter Sunday - Resurrection**

**WELCOME to Our Savior!** We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. **Come and worship with us again! Blessed Easter to you!**

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** Printed here and in red (TLH) hymnal at p.5 .

Service		
Opening Hymn	200 (8v)	<i>Sing v.1-4</i> I Know My Redeemer Lives
Hymn of the Day	199 (4v)	Jesus Christ Is Risen Today. Alleluia!
<i>Exordium Hymn</i>	189 (1v)	<i>He Is Arisen! Glorious Word!</i>
<i>Offertory Verse</i>	202 (4v)	<i>Sing v.1</i> Welcome, Happy Morning!
Third Hymn	205 (5v)	The Day of Resurrection
Closing Hymn	200v5-8	<i>Sing v5-8</i> He lives to silence all fears..

**Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays after Easter Sunday**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Deut.9:1-29	Deut.10:1-22	Deut.11:1-32	Deut.28:1-14	Deut.28:15-68	Deu.34:1-12
Luke23:26-56	Matt.26:1-35	Matt.26:36-75	Matt.27:1-38	Matt.27:39-66	Mark14:1-31

**PROPERs for THE FESTIVAL of EASTER MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

**INTROIT** When I awake, I am still with You. Alleluia! You have laid Your hand upon me. Alleluia! Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. Alleluia! Alleluia! O Lord, You have searched me and known me! You know my sitting down and my rising up. ...from Psalm 139

**COLLECT** Almighty God, who through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, has overcome death and opened for us the gate of everlasting life, we humbly ask You that, as You put into our minds good desires, so by Your continual help may we may bring those desires to good effect; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one True God, now and forever, C: ♪ A- -men.

**GRADUAL** C: Alleluia! This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us. Let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia! ...from Psalm 118

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:** (printed on outside back page of the bulletin.)

O.T. Exodus 15:1-11 Moses and Israel sing praise to God for Deliverance.

Epi. I Corinthians 15:1-11 The Gospel preached to you is of a Risen Christ.

Gos. Luke 24:1-11 "Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?"

**EXORDIUM HYMN VERSE "He Is Arisen! Glorious Word!" TLH #189 (1v)**

**1. He is arisen! Glorious Word!  
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;  
The gates of Heav'n are open.  
My Jesus did triumphant die,  
And Satan's arrows broken lie,  
Destroyed hell's direst weapon.**

**Oh, hear  
What cheer!  
Christ victorious  
Riseth glorious,  
Life He giveth-**

**HE WAS DEAD, BUT SEE, HE LIVETH! A-MEN.**

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Jeanette Ammann	(Donna's daughter) Health.	Pray for healing and peace
Adeline & Richard Birkenmeier	Richard's spiritual & emotional state	
Sue (friend of Joe & BevF)		Pray for health. Sue received tough health news
Alex Gourley (Ilene)	Alex had aneurysm surgery last week. He's back home	
Elma & Jim Hendricks	Health - Elma & Jim still recovering from illnesses	
Linda Kryszak	Pray for her health. Linda hopefully recovering from surgery	
Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee's ongoing health. Dee at home. David helps	
Pam & Karen	Friends, family of DonnaM, both battling health issues	
Donna Martin	Comfort for friend & family of Mary, who passed away	
Janice Thomas	Had CT scan and blood transfusion. Pray strength for Janice	
James Vanesky & Delores	Health. Jim's neckbrace off. Delores had surgery	

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Bev Foster & Joe Thacker	Ilene & Alex Gourley
Treaters	8:15am - Easter Breakfast	(Volunteer)
(Head) Usher	John Weber	John Weber

Statistics	Last week	Year to date / Avg.
Sunday (Communion) Thu, Fri.	36 / (33), 24, 25	40 / 33
Bible Class Attendance: Sunday	14 / -	14 / 0
Last Sunday Offering + MT + GF	\$	YTD Total \$

Calendar of Events		
Sunday, 3/27	8:15 am	Easter Breakfast at church
Blessed & Happy	9:30 am	Easter Festival Worship (NO L.S.)
Easter, 2016!	10:45 ff...	Fellowship, Coffee... Blessed Easter!
Sunday, 4/3	8:30 am	Bible Study Lord's Prayer - 6 <sup>th</sup> Petition
Easter-2 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (W/ Communion)
Quasimodogeneti	10:45 ff...	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ...Stay!

Our Savior Elders: Tom Temple 213-4622; Jim Vanesky 644-7807; John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 815-8892. Please contact with concerns.

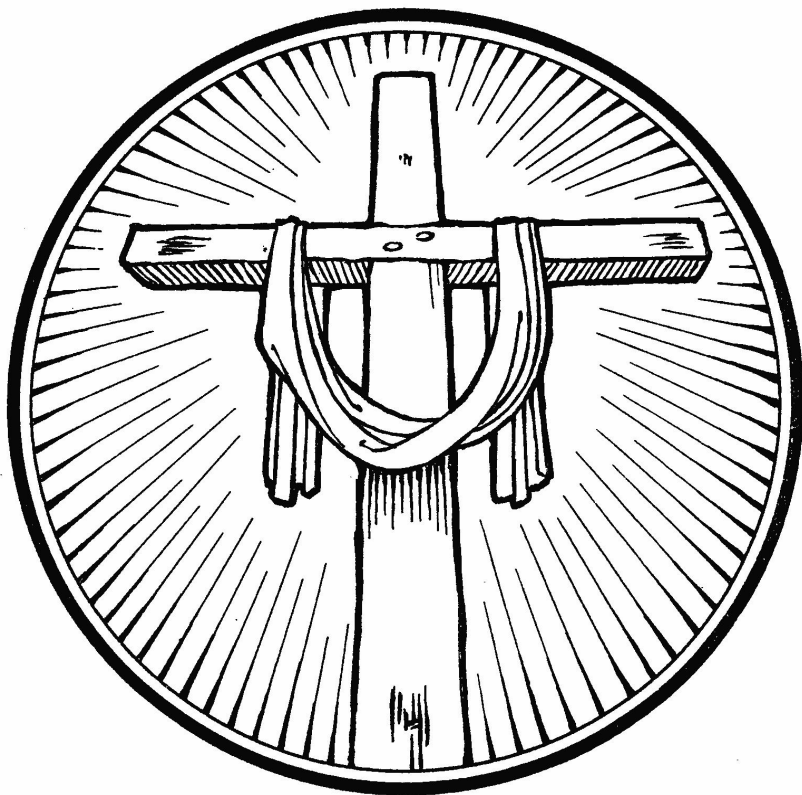
✧ Huge THANK YOU to members (ladies) who provided Our Easter Breakfast!

✧ Thank you also to all who signed up and provided Lilies for the sanctuary.

Next Sunday 4/3 Easter-2 (p.15 L.S.) TLH Hymn #: 202 208 189 192 201

**Thank you to all who donated lovely Easter lilies.  
Easter Lily Donors                      In Memory/Honor of:**

Bev Foster	Robert & Barbara Foster
Ilene Gourley	Frank & Marie Humphrey
Elaine Jones	Richard Jones
Elma Hendricks	Elma's parents and brothers
Jim Hendricks	Jim's parents and family
Mary Lou Knigge	Family
Dee Kurczewski	(Leonard, husband)
Donna Martin	John (husband) and Mary (sister)
Don & Carolyn Miner	
Joe Thacker	Kay Thacker
David & Janice Thomas	Rev. Norman Pommeranz, father
David & Janice Thomas	Jane Thomas, David's mother
Ethel & Steve Wendt	Victor Wendt, family
Don & Bev Wienke	Markus Wienke, grandson & family
John Wuolle	



**I. The Service of Preparation ✧ TLH p.5**

**WELCOME, ALL! EASTER SUNDAY + Jesus' Triumphal Resurrection**

**OPENING HYMN I Know That My Redeemer Lives TLH #200, Sing verses 1-4**

**The INVOCATION** (Congregation please rise)

*P: ♪ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ✧ and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: ♪ A- -men.**

**The CONFESSION of SINS**

*P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. ♪ Our help is in the Name of the Lord.*

**C: ♪ Who made heaven and earth.**

*P: ♪ I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.*

**C: ♪ And Thou forgavest the iniquity of- my- sin.**

*P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**C: O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy Will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the End, that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*P: Almighty God our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His Name He gives the power to become children of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.*

**C: ♪ A- -men.**

**The INTROIT** (Entrance)

*P: When I awake, I am still with You. Alleluia! You have laid Your hand upon me. Alleluia! Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. Alleluia! Alleluia! O Lord, You have searched me and known me! You know my sitting down and my rising up. ...from Psalm 139*

**The GLORIA PATRI** (Glory be to God)

**C: ♪ Glory- be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

**KYRIE ELEISON** (Lord Have Mercy)

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** (on next page... →)

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** (*Glory in the Highest*) P: ♪ *Glory be to God on high.*

C: ♪ **And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, Heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son-of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon-us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the Right Hand of God the Father, have mercy upon- us. For Thou only art holy. Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.**

**The SALUTATION** (*Greeting*)

P: ♪ *The Lord be with you.*

C: ♪ **And with thy spir-it.**

**The COLLECT** (*Prayer for Easter Sunday prayed by Pastor - words on page 1*)

C: (*sung after the Collect*) ♪ **A- -men.** The congregation may be seated.



## **II. The Service of The Word** TLH p.10

**OLD TESTAMENT:** Exodus 15:1-11 Moses and Israel sing praise to God.

**EPISTLE:** I Corinthians 15:1-11 The Gospel preached to you of a Risen Christ.

**GRADUAL** C: Alleluia! This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us. Let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia! ...from Psalm 118

C: (*Sung after the Epistle & Gradual*) ♪ **ALLELU-IA, ALLELU-IA, ALLELU---IA!**

**The HOLY GOSPEL:** Luke 24:1-11 (*The congregation please rise.*)

C: (*Sung before the Holy Gospel is read*) ♪ **Glory be to Thee, O LORD.**

C: (*Sung after the Holy Gospel is read*) ♪ **Praise- be to Thee, O CHRIST.**

**APOSTLES' CREED** (*Our Confession of Faith*) All say together C:

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell; the Third Day He Rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven**

**And sitteth on the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Christian Church,  
the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins,  
the Resurrection of the body ✕ and the Life everlasting. Amen.**

(The Congregation may be seated for the next hymn.)

**HYMN of the DAY** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today; Alleluia!* TLH #199 4 verses

✕ p.3 ✕

**SERMON** Luke 24:1-11 THEME: "**WHY LOOK FOR THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?**"

**EXORDIUM VERSE** "**He Is Arisen! Glorious Word!**" TLH #189 (*words on p.6 →*)

(*End of Sermon*) *The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting, Amen.*

(*After Sermon*) C: ♪ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and- renew a right spirit within me, Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salva-tion; and uphold me with Thy- free spirit. A-men.**

**The OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY VERSE** "**Welcome, Happy Morning!**" TLH #202 *Sing verse 1*

1. **"Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say;  
Hell today is vanquished, Heav'n is won today!"  
Lo, the Dead is living, God forevermore!  
Him, their true Creator, all His works adore.  
"Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say;  
HELL TODAY IS VANQUISHED, HEAV'N IS WON TODAY!" Amen.**



**PRAYER for the CHURCH** Either a General or Seasonal Prayer may be used.

*After the General Prayer,* **The LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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 & ever, Amen.**

**3<sup>RD</sup> HYMN** "**The Day of Resurrection**" TLH #205 (3 verses) LANCASHIRE

**The COLLECT (PRAYER) for the CHURCH**

*P: Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, unto Thy Church Thy Holy Spirit and the Wisdom that cometh down from above, that Thy Word, as becometh it, may not be bound, but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve Thee and in the confession of Thy Name abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth -- and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, One True God now and forever.*

C: ♪ **A- -men.**

**The BENEDICTION**

P: ♪ The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you,  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give ✕ you peace.

C: ♪ **A-men, A-men, A- -men.**

**CLOSING HYMN** "**I Know That My Redeemer Lives**" TLH #200 *Sing vv.5-8*

**SILENT PRAYER.** (CANDLES OUT) \* \* \* **ANNOUNCEMENTS; FELLOWSHIP.**

*A very blessed and joyful Easter to All of you in the Name of Our Risen Savior Christ!*

✕ p.4 ✕

**E! EASTER SUNDAY Luke 24:4-8 "WHY LOOK FOR LIVING...?" 03.27.16 OSL**

**INTRODUCTION** Have you ever had trouble finding someone's house? Imagine that you're driving around and you keep looking at your directions or your GPS and peering at street signs, and you just can't find it. You start to become a little frustrated and perhaps even less than charitable toward whoever gave you the directions, positioned the streets signs, or programmed that stupid electronic device that keeps leading you astray. Then you spot someone walking along the road. So you pull up and ask the person, "Can you tell me where so and so lives? The house is supposed to be right around here somewhere!" The person along the side of the road looks around. All he can see for acres in any direction are tombstones. He doesn't know what to say, because you're looking for the living among the dead. Do you think you could ever be that lost? Probably not. This morning, in God's Word, we see a group of women looking for Jesus in a cemetery and an angel asking them, (Our THEME & Last IRONY) **"Why do you look for the living among the dead?"**

**I.** Of course, you know the story. These women weren't stupid or confused. They went to the last place anyone had seen Jesus: the tomb where **Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea** had laid His Body just before sundown on Friday. When we hear the angel's question, **"Why do you look for the living among the dead?"** the women's and our natural answer might be, **"Where else would he be?"**

These women had gotten up early that morning because in love they didn't want to leave Jesus' body in the tomb without the proper burial preparations. In that time and place, there were no funeral directors to take care of things like that. **On the way there, they talked about the practical problem of getting into a tomb that was sealed by a large boulder.** However, when they got there, nothing was the way they thought it would be. The Roman guards Pilate had posted were gone. The stone was rolled away, and inside they found grave clothes scattered on the ground and a cloth neatly folded where his head had been - **but no Body.** That's when two men in shining robes - (two angels) - appeared and said, **"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"**

**Don't those words sound like a rebuke?** The angel thought these women should have known better than to come to the tomb looking for a dead Jesus. They should've known he would be alive on Easter morning. Jesus had prepared them for this moment. Again and again, going all the way back to Galilee, He had told His disciples that He was going to die and then Rise, but they didn't understand what He was talking about. The angel was now asking **these women why they didn't understand what Jesus had promised.**

**You and I might be more sympathetic** to these women than the angels were. Angels are holy. They see God all the time. They don't know what it's like **to be wrong, to be weak in faith, or to misunderstand God.** But we're sinners. We've been wrong so many times in our lives about so many things, especially spiritual things, that we can totally understand why these women never grasped the promise Jesus made. After all, who comes back from the

dead? These women had probably done this kind of duty before for people who were close to them. **Never had any of those bodies been living again three days after they died. It might seem unfair to us** to rebuke these women for having the natural reaction in a situation like this.

The angels rebuked these women because the angels were holy. They had the same perspective God has. They were speaking in God's place. And, we identify with these **humble women who did love their Lord.** Because, **our faith is often weak too.** When we hurt, when life seems impossible, when death is looking us in the face - our own death or the death of people we love - the natural response for us is simply to try to cope. The natural response is for us to wrap ourselves in sorrow and just focus on the practical needs at hand. **We too can easily leave Jesus and His promises out of the picture.**

Is that so very different from what these women did when they looked for their Lord in a tomb? **The angels owe us the same rebuke.** But remember what they said in the very next breath: **"He is not here; He has risen!"** In His great love, Jesus did the impossible. He died on the Cross and paid for our sin and then Rose from the dead. Now death does not win in our lives. **All those who die trusting in Jesus will live with him forever** - even if their faith is weak like it was for these women on that first Easter morning. Day by day, the power of the Resurrection - the Gospel - is a **living force that changes our hearts. It is the source of strength for our faith, especially on the days when life hurts and death comes.**

**II.** What difference does it make if you look for a name on a mailbox or a tombstone? You can probably find most names in both places, but you can only visit a friend in one of those places. That's the point the angels were making. **"Why do you look for the living among the dead?"** Someone might ask, **"What difference does it make?"**

**It makes all the difference in the world!** All too often, when our faith is weak, when we're dissatisfied, when we feel guilty and foolish and unproductive, we look for Jesus in all the wrong places. Where are we supposed to find Jesus? **We find Jesus in the Gospel.** We find Him in the Word that's preached and taught to us. We find Him in **our Bibles.** We find Him in **our Baptisms,** which washed our sins away, and in **Holy Communion,** where we receive the actual Body and Blood of the Lord. But those are **not the natural place** for us sinners to look for him. We tend to look for Him **in ALL the wrong places.** We want to find Him in **our own hearts.** We look for Him in **our feelings.** Everywhere but where He is: in **His Means of Grace.**

The angel told these women where to look. He told them to remember what Jesus had said to them. He told them to remember the Gospel: **Jesus died and rose for them. And he says the same thing to us.** Because Christian friends, **our hearts are corrupt.** They are full of sin and false ideas. If we go looking for the Son of God there, if we imagine that the Holy Spirit will speak to us in our lives and in our hopes, we're really just looking for the living among the dead. **The great Irony of the Resurrection is that Jesus is not found where people expect Him to be.** Instead, He's found right where He

said He would be: **In the Gospel.** And it's only the hardness of our sinful hearts that wants him to be someplace else.

The angels at the tomb knew that. So they repeated the message Jesus had been telling his disciples ever since they left Galilee: *"The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the Third Day be raised again."* If the women and the disciples had understood that message, the weekend of Good Friday through Easter Sunday might have been easier for them to bear, but they didn't understand. **They were sinners, just like we are.** So when Jesus was crucified, their hearts were broken and they could find no comfort. All they could do was carry on with the necessary tasks at hand - like preparing His Body for burial.

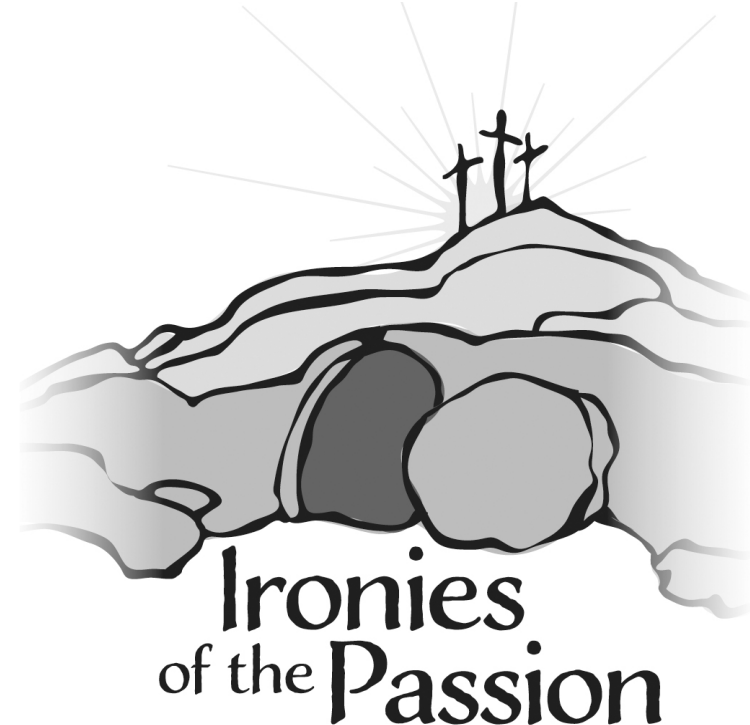
They **didn't** want to see him as a Man who came here to die. But, **that's exactly why Jesus came - to die!** He came to die, because our hearts are sinful. Jesus died because our faith is weak. And for all our sins we deserve to die and spend eternity in hell. (But,) **When He died, He paid for every sinful heart - including ours.**

APPLICATION (And then, what we celebrate today) **On Easter Sunday, Jesus Rose!** His Resurrection is God's proof that Jesus did everything that He came to do. Jesus' Resurrection says (1) that He has paid for every sin of every sinner who has ever lived and ever will live. He has paid for your sins and mine. It's God's promise that we don't have any sin left to pay for. Our accounts are now clear. Our record is now clean. That will always be true for us. God does not even hold over our heads the sins of our hearts that we still struggle with or still torment us. (2) **God calls declares us righteous because Jesus Rose.** And (3) God promised **in His Resurrection that we too will rise.** Death cannot hold us anymore. God has crippled death. When Jesus returns, God will kill death and we will live with Him forever.

That's what the angel meant when he said, *"Remember what he told you."* **Luke** says, *"Then they remembered his words."* Suddenly, it all came flooding back to them. With this simple expression, Luke shows the power of the Holy Spirit to create, strengthen, and clarify faith. And what did they remember? They remembered the Gospel, the promise of everlasting Life. That's where the power is, and when these women heard it, they believed. When they remembered Jesus' promise and began to understand that he had kept it, they began to trust in all God's promises.

CONCLUSION **Jesus' return to life brings US back to life.** His Resurrection is more powerful than sin or death. **It creates new life.** It changes who and what we are. The truth is that on our own, we would only look for Jesus **in all the wrong places. So He came to us.** We have him every time we hear the Gospel. We have him every time we come to His Supper (Communion) and every time we remember our forgiveness He gave us in Baptism. Do we still have room to grow? Of course we do! For as long as we live here, we will need to grow in our faith and our understanding. The tool He gives us is the Gospel. It's the power of God. I tells us that **Jesus Rose.** That makes all the difference in this world, because now we will live with Him forever. **Thanks be to God Who gives us the Victory in Jesus! Amen. SDG**

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS  
Lent-2016 *Easter Sunday* ✠ *Ironies of the Passion*  
March 27<sup>th</sup>  2016 ✠ 9:30 am



*Services*

Ash Wednesday/Midweek 1	..... This Man Went Home Justified .....	Luke 18:9-14
Midweek 2	..... It Is Better That One Man Die for the People!.....	John 11:45-53
Midweek 3	..... Not During the Feast .....	Matthew 26:1-5
Midweek 4	..... He Had Been Wanting to See Jesus .....	Luke 23:6-12
Midweek 5	..... We Have No King but Caesar! .....	John 19:12-16a
Midweek 6	..... Don't You Fear God?.....	Luke 23:39-43
Palm Sunday	..... Do You Hear What These Children Are Saying?.....	Matthew 21:12-17
Maundy Thursday	..... Do This in Remembrance of Me.....	1 Corinthians 11:23-29
Good Friday	..... He Said, "I Will Rise Again" .....	Matthew 27:62-66
Easter Sunday	..... Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead? .....	Luke 24:4-8