

Historic Scripture Lessons ✕ for Easter Sunday Festival 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

John 20:1-18 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the LORD out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!" 3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes, 11 but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' Body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my LORD away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put Him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 15 "Woman," He said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking He was the Gardener, she said, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have put Him, and I will get Him." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to Me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to My brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the LORD!" And she told them that He had said these things to her.



OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

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

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

April 1st, 2018 ✧ Easter Sunday-Christ's 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!**

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER: If you are new to the area or Our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before Communing. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding. God bless you on Easter.

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP Printed here and in the (red) TLH hymnal at p.15.

Service		
Opening Hymn	200 (8v)	<i>Sing v.1-4</i> I Know My Redeemer Lives
Hymn of the Day	188 (6v)	Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!
Offertory Verse	189 (4v)	<i>He Is Arisen! Glorious Word!</i>
Distribution Hymn	206 (4v)	Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense
Closing Hymn	200 v5-8	<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	Mark 14:1-31

PROPERs for THE FESTIVAL of EASTER APRIL 1ST, 2018

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.) ✧ p.1 ✧

Thank you to all who donated lovely Easter lilies.

Easter Lily Donors

In Memory/Honor of:

Rev. Andrew Burmeister	Doris Burmeister (Mother)
Connie Costenbader	Dolores Stroh(Mother)
Bev Foster	Robert & Barbara Foster
Elaine Jones	Richard Jones
Mary Lou Knigge	Family
Carolyn & Don Miner	Kathy (Sipple) Lane
Shirley & DuWayne Marquardt	Pam (Daughter in law)
Vivian & Tom Temple	Family (Daughters)
Joe Thacker	Kay Thacker
Ethel & Steve Wendt	Victor Wendt, family
John Wuolle	Eileen

PRAYER REQUESTS: Member or Relation Pray for...

Bill Dumke (RWH Winter Haven) Bill left Palm Gardens rehab. Is with his son
Sue Smith (Bev Foster) Sue battling pancreas & liver growths. Sad but faithful!
Jim & Elma Hendricks LORD's will be done. Both at home. Jim's BP spikes
Dee Kurczewski (David) Dee was in hospital after falls. Back home, rehabbing
Angelo Pousa (Tom & Viv Temple's friend) Angelo battling health issues
Jon Sawyer (Andrea) Jon Sr is scheduled for a heart stent surgery April 5th
Rev. Randy VanMehren (Robin) Pastor VanMehren back home from surgery

June Weyenberg June back home (by herself) doing rehab from knee surgery

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Elaine Jones	Mary Ford
Treaters	8:15am - Easter Breakfast	Mary Lou Knigge (Pies)

Statistics	Last week	Year to date / Avg.
Sunday, Thu.(Communion), Friday	28 /26 (22), 24	27 / 23
Bible Class Attendance: Sun/Wed	6 / 0	7 / 8
Last Sunday Offering + MT + GF	\$\$\$	YTD Total \$.,

Calendar of Events		
Today, April 1st	8:15 am	Easter Breakfast at church (No Bible Cl)
<i>Blessed & Happy & Safe Easter, 2017!</i>	9:30 am	Easter Festival Worship (WITH L.S.)
	10:45 ff...	Fellowship, Coffee... Blessed Easter!
Wednesday, 4/4	6:00 pm	OSL Bible Study -PARABLE: UN4Giving
Sunday, 4/8	8:30 am	Bible Study (Hebrews Finished -) New!
<i>Easter-2 Sunday</i>	9:30 am	Divine Worship (No Communion)
<i>Quasimodogeneti</i>	10:45 ff...	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ...Stay!

✧ 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.

April 1st ▲ ELS Centennial: Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done: 1918-2018



The following announcement appeared in the April 1, 1918 issue of the church paper *Luthersk Tidende*: "Pastors and members of congregations who desire to continue in the old doctrine and practice of the Norwegian Synod will, God willing, hold their annual meeting in the Lime Creek congregation, Pastor H. Ingebritson's charge, June 14 and following days."

Next Sunday 4/8 **Easter-2 (p.5 L.S.)** TLH Hymn #s: 192 208 208,9-10 196 201

The PROPER PREFACE & SANCTUS (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, (Easter Preface) Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of Heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

**C: ♪ Ho- -ly, ho- -ly, ho-ly, Lord God of Sab-a-oth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the high-est.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the
Name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the high-est.**

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;**

**C: ♪ For Thine is the Kingdom and the Pow'r and the Glory
forever and ever. A- -men.**

The WORDS of INSTITUTION (*Pastor gives the Words of Institution*)

PAX DOMINI *P: ♪ The Peace of the Lord be with you always. C: ♪ A- -men.*

The **AGNUS DEI** (*Lamb of God*) **C: ♪ O- Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O- Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the
world, have mercy upon us. O- Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That
takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A----men.**

DISTRIBUTION. Communicant members of Our Savior may now come forward.

(*After Distribution...*) **The NUNC DIMITTIS** (*Lord, let us Now Depart*)

**C: ♪ Lord, now- lettest Thou Thy servant depart- in- peace, according
to Thy Word. For mine- eyes have seen Thy Salvation, which Thou
hast prepared- be-fore the face of all people, a Light- to light-en the
Gentiles, and the Glo-ry of Thy people Is--rael. 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. A--men.**

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. C: ♪ And His mercy endureth forever.

P: We give thanks to Thee, Lord God Almighty, ... now and forever. C: ♪ A- -men.

The SALUTATION *P: ♪ The Lord be with you. C: ♪ And with thy spir-it.*

The BENEDICAMUS *P: ♪ Let us bless the Lord. C: ♪ Thanks- be to God.*

The BENEDICTION

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

C: ♪ A-men, A-men, A- -men.

CLOSING HYMN *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* #200 *Now sing verses 5-8*



I. The Service of Preparation TLH starting p.15 or here



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 if you are able)

P: ♪ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Ghost.

C: ♪ A- -men.

The CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto 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.

C: O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserve Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ♪ A- -men.

The INTROIT (*Entrance. Pastor speaks the words of the Introit*)

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 (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'n-ly King, God the Father Al-mighty. 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.

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 The LORD destroyed the enemy & delivered.

PSALM "HYMN" for Easter: This is the Feast of Victory - Please SING along!

Refrain:

This is the Feast- of Victory for our God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alle-lu-ia.

1. **Worthy is Christ, the- Lamb Who was slain,
Whose Blood set us free to be the people of God. [Refrain] This is...**
2. **Pow-er, riches-, wisdom and strength,
And honor-, bles-sing and glory are His. [Refrain This is the Feast...**
3. **Sing- with all the- people of God
And join in the hymn of all crea--tion. [Refrain] This is the Feast of...**
4. **Blessing, honor, glory and might
Be to God and the Lamb- forever. Amen.**

This is the Feast- of Victory for our God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alle-lu--ia!

EPISTLE I Corinthians 15:1-11 St. Paul records the Resurrection & witnesses.

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: John 20:1-18** (*If able, 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.

✧ p.3 ✧

NICENE CREED (*Our Confession of Faith*) **All say together:**

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the Third Day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the Right Hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the Life ✧ of the world to come. Amen. (The congregation may be seated.)

HYMN of the DAY *Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! TLH #188* (6 verses in Red Hymnal)

SERMON Text: John 20:1-18 **THEME: "(DEATH IS DESTROYED.) WHO'S THE FOOL?"**

(*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 Spir-it from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy Salva-tion; and uphold me with Thy- free Spirit. Amen.**

The **OFFERING**

OFFERTORY VERSE *He Is Arisen! Glorious Word! #189* (as offering brought up)

**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 for the CHURCH

P: ♪ The Lord be with you.

P: ♪ Lift up your hearts.

P: ♪ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: ♪ And- with thy- spirit.

C: ♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.

C: ♪ It is meet and right so to do.

✧ p.4 ✧



EASTER-PASCHA(B) John 20:1-18 "DEATH HAS LOST ITS GRIP!" 4.1.18 OSL

(LOST) DEATH GRIP We talk about a "death-grip" ... Today we're going to talk about (real) **Death LOSING its Grip!** That's what our (Christian) Easter is **all about!** Christ is Risen! He's made it through. His **"IT IS FINISHED"** from the Cross holds up against death and the grave. Nothing can hold crucified Jesus down. **The grave has lost its grip...**

For since death came through a man, the Resurrection of the dead comes also through a Man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians. 15:22)

STOLEN BODY **Mary Magdalene** went to the grave very early in the morning. It was Sunday, the **First Day** of a new week. It was still dark. In the dim light she saw the stone door had been rolled away, the grave was open. She assumes the logical worst - **someone must have taken the Body of Jesus.** That was the reasonable thing to think. Dead men don't rise. Someone must have moved the Body. *"They've taken the LORD from the tomb, and we don't know where they have laid Him."* Jesus is missing.

IS IT TRUE?! Peter and John race to the tomb. **John's a bit faster, Peter a bit braver.** John stoops down to have a peek inside. Peter rushes headlong the tomb. Good old Peter, always the first. He sees the burial cloths lying there where Jesus' Body had been laid out. Everything is **tidy and in order**, the burial cloths folded neatly, as though Jesus had made His bed after getting up from sleep. If someone moved the Body, they forgot the burial cloths. And then who would fold them up so neatly? John looks in and sees the same things. (It takes **two witnesses** to establish something legally.) A realization began to dawn: **JESUS IS RISEN! The grave has lost its grip.**

TWAIN ANGELS Peter and John see the evidence, but they **hadn't seen Jesus. That gift was given to Mary Magdalene.** She stood outside the grave sobbing. What else can you do? Your best Friend and Teacher died and now His Body is missing. Tears flow. She looks into the tomb and **sees two shining angels** in white sitting on the shelf where Jesus' body had lain, one at the head, the other at the foot. Recall that in the OT, there were **two angels on either side of the Ark of the Covenant, facing each other.** Same thing here. Jesus has made the grave a most holy place ... **but also a holy relic.**

(WHAT'S IN) A NAME? Mary looks over her shoulder and sees a Man standing outside. He must be the Gardener. Does he know where Jesus is? Did he take the Body? He says her name, **"Mary."** The voice, the sound of her name. A sheep knows the voice of her Shepherd. She throws herself at His feet and grabs on tightly to His ankles. **"Rabboni, my Teacher."** *"Weeping remains for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."* Jesus turns her tears of sadness to tears of joy. The **graveyard is now a happy place** for her. She had her Jesus back and wasn't about to let Him go.

DO TELL *"No need to keep on holding me,"* Jesus says to her. He's not going anywhere. *"I've not yet Ascended to the Father. Go and tell my brothers."* They needed to be told; He gives that holy task to her. This poor

woman with a miserable train wreck of a life whom Jesus had rescued from the grip of the demons gets to **tell the Good News first. "I have seen the Lord."**

JUST THE FACTS Those are the plain and sober facts of Easter. An empty tomb. Folded burial cloths and head covering. Two angels. A Risen Jesus you can lay hold of. Not a vision, a ghost, an illusion, or a fond wish. A bodily risen Jesus. There are eyewitnesses - John, Peter, Mary. Soon the other disciples. By the end of the month, over 500 witnesses, people who had nothing to gain and everything to lose by making this up. All with the same remarkable message: **Jesus who was crucified is risen. THE GRAVE HAS LOST ITS GRIP.**

GrEEKS/FOOLS First century Greeks didn't believe in resurrected bodies. Immortal souls, no problem. But not risen bodies. Spiritual Resurrections were fine, but not bodies that rise up from tombs leaving neatly folded burial cloths behind. The Apostle **Paul** is blunt and to the point with the Christians of **Corinth: If Christ has not been raised, your faith is empty, futile, and you are yet in your sins. (i.e. FOOLS)**

NO BONES If Christ isn't raised, there is a Body of Jesus out there somewhere, some Bones in a box with Jesus' Name on it, like James. If Christ isn't raised, that chapter from John you heard is **a myth, a pious legend, even worse, a fraud.** If Christ isn't raised, then my friends, you need to **find another religion, and soon.**

NO BENE'S Never mind all the **fringe benefits** of "being a Christian," how it brings you peace of mind or joy in your heart or helps you through life's problems. Forget it all. If Jesus isn't raised, those things don't matter in the long run. *"If our hope in Christ is only for this life, than we are to be pitied more than all men."* We're really a pitiful bunch of dupes, a bunch of (April) **Fools**, if Christ isn't raised.

BIG FAT LIE You can't have Jesus the **teacher**, Jesus the great **moral example**, Jesus the **prophet**, Jesus the nice guy who did nice things for people without the Jesus who hung dead on a Cross and Rose bodily from the dead. If Jesus is not risen from the dead, then the Christian faith is **not** one of the "noble" religions of the world, it's a big fat lie (for **fools**) and not worth wasting y/our Sunday, let alone y/our lives over.

NO (GOOD) NEWS If Christ isn't raised, you may as well play soccer on Sunday, read the newspaper, go to the beach or the desert, get on with your lives as best you can. Eat, drink, be happy, be nice, be safe, live fast and hard - for **tomorrow you might die and that's the end of it all.** That's your (only) "good news" if Christ isn't raised from the dead.

NO PARTY If Christ isn't raised, you can have chocolate Easter bunnies and baskets full of colored eggs and bouquets of springtime flowers, and that's all of Easter you will have. A celebration of fertility (or Spring/Fall). If Christ isn't raised, you **can have Easter supper without the Lord's Supper**, you can feast on meats and wines but it won't be the feast that the prophet Isaiah pictured because the **shroud of death still hangs over everything.**

WALLOWING If Christ isn't raised, you are still in your sins. That's the worst of it. That awful Cross accomplished nothing. **There is NO atonement for sin.** It's all up to you to balance the scales. **You** have to fix things. **You** have pull yourself up. You have to balance the books yourself, and you better not waste any time, because you don't know how much time you have.

CHAINS If Christ isn't raised from the dead, you are imprisoned in your old Adam-ic self. In Adam, all die, and you're no exception. If Christ isn't raised then it's only a matter of time before death punches your time clock and you receive the just wages of sin - the cancer cell, the stroke, the blown blood vessel, the stray bullet, the strange virus, or even just the old natural causes. **Even if you spent your life doing all the things you think Jesus would have you do, it's all for nothing, if Christ isn't raised.**

BUT HE IS!!! **But Jesus Christ IS risen.** That's the abiding joy of This Day. The tomb IS **empty** and ordered. The crucified body IS **risen**. It's a **witnessed fact** of history. Mary and John and Peter and the Twelve, James and all the apostles, 500 **all say the same thing to us.** *"We saw Him. We touched Him. We ate with Him. We heard His voice. He is risen from the dead!"*

ALL RISE As in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. No one will sleep in on that final Easter Sunday, whenever that day comes. Those who trust Jesus and His completed work to save them will rise to eternal life. Those who refuse to trust Him and reject what He has won for them, will rise to eternal condemnation, which is a waste of a perfectly good Resurrection. But **all will rise.** Every single son and daughter of Adam and Eve will rise in the power of Jesus' Resurrection. (Fools and NOT-fools)

NO STING The grave **has** lost its grip. *"O death, where is thy victory? O grave, where is your sting?"* **The sting of death is sin; the power of sin to kill is the Law.** God's Law, the Law we break each and every moment of our lives. It's killing us. Driving us to the grave. *"But Thanks be to God, Who gives us the Victory through our LORD Jesus Christ."*

Christ is Risen! *His death is Death's demise.*
Christ is Risen! *Death is swallowed up forever.*
Christ is Risen! *Sin is washed away (forever).*
Christ is Risen! *The devils cower in fear, their reign of darkness is ended.*
Christ is Risen! *A new creation has dawned; the old is gone, the New has come.*
Christ is Risen! *Adam is lifted up from the dust of death.*
Christ is Risen! *And in Him you live (now and forever).*

TABLE SET The feast is ready for you dear baptized believers. The finest of foods, the best of wines. Not outside in the fellowship hall (although that was good/great too), but **here where the LORD is truly present for us.** Here, where the bread is the Body of Christ, where the wine is His Blood. **Death is swallowed up in Victory. Christ lives forever. And, we will live forever with Him,** in that Heavenly Banquet, in that **Eternal Easter.**

"Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in His Salvation." **In HIS Name, Amen.**

SDG

Possible Prayer of Church (Paschal Feast) *Easter Sunday* ✠ April 1st, 2018

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Father in Heaven, You raised Your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead as the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. Fill all Your baptized people with the joy of His victory, and send us forth as witnesses to His resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lover of mankind, prosper Your Gospel wherever it is preached throughout the world, that it may give and sustain faith in all who hear it, delivering them from the power of darkness and bringing them into the joyful Kingdom of Your risen Son. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of glory, Your Son established Your Church to be a refuge of peace in a troubled world. Raise up servants of Your Church in every place who will devote their lives to the spread of the Gospel and the service of Your people. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

King of the nations, remember in Your kindness all who bear authority in our land, and give them wisdom and integrity that they may serve our people according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rock of refuge in every time of need, hear the prayers of those who call upon You in times of distress, especially those who are lonely and homebound, the sick, the dying and the mourning [*especially* **OSL Prayer List**].

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Bill Dumke	(RWH Winter Haven)	Bill left Palm Gardens rehab. Is with his son
Sue Smith	(Bev Foster)	Sue battling pancreas & liver growths. Sad but faithful!
Jim & Elma Hendricks		LORD's will be done. Both at home. Jim's BP spikes
Dee Kurczewski	(David)	Dee was in hospital after falls. Back home, rehabbing
Angelo Pousa	(Tom & Viv Temple's friend)	Angelo battling health issues
Jon Sawyer	(Andrea)	Jon Sr is scheduled for a heart stent surgery April 5 th
Rev. Randy VanMehren	(Robin)	Pastor VanMehren had surgery Th. in Tampa
June Weyenberg		June back home (by herself) doing rehab from knee surgery

May Your Son ever be for them their joy in sorrow, their health in sickness and their life in death. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bountiful Giver of all things, Your Son has prepared a feast of forgiveness and life for His people. Grant to all who come to His altar today a faithful share in His unending life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the living, receive our thanks this day for all Your servants who have departed this life in Your faith and fellowship and who now rest from their labors. Bring us by Your grace to share with them in the triumph of Your Resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen. ...Then, the Lord's Supper, p.24**

