

## The Resurrection of our Lord—April 5, 2026

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

“And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.’”

I am morning person, at least most of the time. Every Maundy Thursday I resonate when the Gospels recount how the disciples fall asleep in the evening while Jesus is praying in the Garden and he has to rebuke them three times. I feel your struggle Peter, the spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak. I like getting up early when it’s quiet, the sun is rising, and the world is waking up. There’s a newness and freshness to the morning. That is my most productive and focused time of the day. Numerous studies show the majority of what the world would call successful people like CEO of corporations and across other walks of life get up before 6:00 am.

Now this isn’t about routines and sleeping habits or shaming the “night owls” among us, but there’s something striking Mark tells us in the Gospel reading, “And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.” The events of Holy Week are a lot to take in and fathom. Even now that’s the case one can only imagine when these women that Easter morning. They went to the tomb early on Sunday morning because they wanted to anoint the body of Jesus. Caring for the body after death was something God’s people did and still do. They didn’t just discard a body but wanted to go and do this one last act of compassion and care for their Lord.

The thoughts of the women must have been spinning. Take Mary Magdalene for instance, she stood at the foot of the cross on Good Friday and watched her Lord cry out and give up his spirit. She witnessed the soldier pierce his side. She heard the earthquake, she saw the darkness, and now here she is on the way to the tomb. The Sabbath had past, they had rested and now they are on their way. Mark tells us another detail, “And they were saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?’ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.” Now on her mind and other women was something as simply as “how are we going to get to the body.”

The day had dawn. It was early and a new day was upon the women and really this new day brought about a sight they had been told about throughout the Scriptures and from the Lord himself. The new morning was a day of life. This was the day of resurrection.

Psalm 90:14 says, “Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.” The Gradual today from Psalm 118 also says, “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” The Psalm verse, from Psalm 118, is a Messianic prophesy for the day of resurrection the day, the day of new creation and life.

God acts and the morning is associated with revealing his work and redemption. A few other examples demonstrate this in the Scriptures. In 1 Samuel 5: “The: the people of Ashdod discover that their god Dagon has fallen on his face before the Lord’s ark of the covenant (which the Philistines had captured), with his head and (the palms of) his hands cut off. Isaiah 37 speaks to how Hezekiah is rescued from the Assyrians after the Angel of the Lord strikes down 185,000 men in their camp and the evidence of this—all the dead bodies—is noticed “when the people of God arose early in the day/at morning.” In Daniel 6, Daniel is sealed into the lions’ den overnight and “Early in the day/at morning” the King Darius, hurries to the den, and, to his great relief, finds the prophet alive. Consider also Judges 6, when Gideon, at God’s instruction, pulls down his father’s altar of Baal and cuts down the idol set beside it and does so at night, and the evidence of this is apparent to the men of the town after they arise “early in the day/at morning.”

These are just a few instances, there are countless others, but you get the point. God’s people see his mercies, his work, and his victory in the morning. God’s mercies are new every morning and great is his faithfulness. Now, this morning, in the Gospel reading, everything comes to a glorious head in what they find at the tomb or rather who they don’t find

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there. “And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.’”

The darkness of Good Friday had past and now the new day has dawned. This day, Easter, is the day the Lord has made. Jesus really did rise from the dead just as he said he would and just as had been prophesied of old. This is the day Isaiah spoke of when he said, “It will be said on that day, ‘Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.’”

God preaches this to you today just as he himself preached it to his disciples and the apostles then proclaimed it to all the world. Everything written in the Scriptures sees its fulfillment in Jesus the spotless Lamb of God who is crucified and risen. He is the Lord who has done it as you heard at the end of Psalm 22 on Maundy Thursday, and as he said “it is finished” on Good Friday. Jesus is risen, your sin is forgiven, and you stand righteous before the throne of God on account of Christ. This day, the Resurrection of our Lord, is all about what is known now and the future which is also known because of Jesus rising from the dead.

Everything is different on this day or rather everything is as it’s supposed should be and looks forward to the fullness of this for all eternity. This is the day of resurrection. This is what informs your days as a baptized child of God as you are a new creation in Christ. The readings today may be very familiar as you have heard them, like Job 19, at funerals. The reason is because funerals are at a lot like Easter. Today is no surprise for you and for you who belong to Christ, it’s a day where fear is cast out.

God proclaims to you that death is defeated this day and that you have the victory in Jesus. God calls you to treasure this and take it to heart. The devil, the world, and your own fallen flesh, however, want you to look at Easter not with eyes of light and life but with darkness and death. The devil wants you to either think that Jesus has been defeated and that the resurrection is hoax or to greet this new morning and day like any other day. Satan wants you to think nothing has changed and death is still the end and its sting is eternal. The world wants you look at this morning in a similar way like the old evil foe, the devil is the prince of this world after all and see Easter with less and less significance. Rather than the world stopping everything and life revolving around Christ and his church, the world wants Christ and his church to submit to its schedules, views, and priorities.

And then there’s your sinful flesh. It’s always a dealer’s choice when it comes to what your sinful nature wants and how it sees the resurrection. For some the resurrection is so below them. They think they know better and have a mind that can explain things away or rationalize their existence according to their own reason and logic. These are the ones that fall the hardest when they face sin, suffering, and death in this life. When they face these things or when what they trust in is put to the test it crumbles and they end up in total despair or a meaningless existence that seeks to find a way to answer, soothe the pain, and have a false sense of security and peace.

For others the sinful nature doesn’t really believe and find confidence in the resurrection of Jesus. They would like to think death has been defeated, they would like to think this day is a new day that changes everything but then when life hits, they are tempted to forget or doubt God’s promises. Resurrection and life become nice sentiments and wishful thinking but nothing real and confident.

Related to this all as well is the temptation of the sinful flesh to see the resurrection of Jesus not impacting their daily lives and that God has granted them a real new life in Christ. The Epistle reading speaks to this when God inspired St. Paul to write, “Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

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So, here's the thing in all this and what God says to you this morning. Christ is risen from the dead and that changes everything. The devil, who is a liar, has been defeated and he knows his time is short. The world is made foolish in its wisdom as Jesus has conquered by the cross and is risen from the dead. Sin doesn't rule over you because Jesus has atoned for it and raised for your justification. Now baptized into Christ you have just as the beginning of Romans 6 says, "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Today is a new day. This morning is the day of your eternal life. You woke up this morning who in Christ even though you die you live. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." The women went to the tomb and they saw and heard something that speaks volumes to all eternity. "And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.'"

Don't be alarmed this new day. Rejoice, Jesus is risen and likewise, now, you should not only expect but know that just as Jesus is risen and his tomb was empty, so shall you and yours be as well. Baptized into Christ you see what your future holds when you gaze into the tomb the woman saw on Easter morning. In Christ your eyes look toward the future not in trepidation and fear rather you are yearning for the day when the Lord returns. On this Easter morning, God's judgment for you in Christ is forgiveness, life, and salvation because Jesus is risen from the dead. "Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ."

Rejoice dear people of God. The fast has ended and today is a festival of joy. What seemed like utter defeat on Friday is proclaimed to be the victory. In that beautiful hymn of the day you sang, "It was a strange and dreadful strife when life and death contended; the victory remained with life, the reign of death was ended. Holy Scripture plainly saith that death is swallowed up by death, its sting is lost forever. Alleluia!

Today the "amen" is proclaimed to you that you now stand righteous before the throne of God. Your sin has been atoned for, and you are no longer God's enemy. You are his redeemed, his saints. This day is the day of Resurrection. Sound trumpets and unfurl the banners. Proclaim with bold "Alleluias" the triumph of your King who has conquered sin, death, and the devil.

What a boldness to live this life even now because Jesus is crucified and risen from the grave. This is an extraordinary day. Everything around you with of its fury, suffering, and misfortune you shrug off. Why? Because Jesus is risen, and you know what you have in him. Even death for you is something to not be feared because just as the tomb couldn't hold him, it can't hold you. Death has been overcome and lost its sting. When you face death and the death of a Christian, you can mock it and say, "death, you have lost! The tomb of Christ is empty, and I am covered in him who has done this for I am baptized, and I will live forever. Even when my body is laid into the tomb my soul goes to be with Jesus and though my body may decay the Lord will raise it up on the last day to immortality and incorruption and in my own flesh, I will see God face to face. Be silent death! You have been conquered; Christ has done it!"

God reveals to you in the Revelation to St. John what your future looks like with Jesus and all his saints as you gather on this morning and look to the new day to come that is eternal life. "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their

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foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.”

Dear brothers in sisters in Christ, what a morning, what a day! Today you celebrate the resurrection of your Lord. The victory is yours and that’s an eternal victory in body and soul. What joy this day! Awake your heart with gladness! Now after gloom comes sadness! Your sin is forgiven, and you are an heir of eternal life. Feast this Easter Day on Christ, the bread of heaven. The Word of grace has purged away the old and evil leaven. The Scriptures have been fulfilled, Jesus did just as he said he would, and he promises you that you are his and you will be with him forever. You are safe from evil, you laugh to scorn sin, the devil and hell. And death? Death can’t scare you because it has lost its sting, its power is gone even if it may try to trick you into panic and thinking it has, its words are empty and meaningless. See your body and know it has been redeemed by Christ and will be raised just as Jesus is and you will see him face to face in the joys of Paradise. “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!”

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Amen.