

**CELEBRATION SUNDAY**

The day Jesus rose from the dead was the greatest day of my life and it's worth celebrating!

**KEY POINTS**

- ❖ Our annual Easter celebration is always a time of wonder and amazement for two main reasons.
- ❖ The first wonder of Easter is spoken of in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
- ❖ And imbedded in that verse is also a clue to the second wonder of Easter, the one we are specifically celebrating today. It lets us know that whoever believes in Jesus will have everlasting life!
- ❖ One may ask: "How is this possible? Everybody has to die sometime." And they are absolutely right. But Jesus has given us a phenomenal new option: through the second wonder of Easter—the resurrection of Jesus Christ— everlasting life has been made available to us.
- ❖ Something happened on Easter Sunday morning that nobody expected.
- ❖ Everyone saw Jesus die. They saw His battered body wrapped in a cloth and hurriedly buried ahead of the Sabbath. It was over, it was done, with nothing left to do but weep at the loss of the Messiah they had hoped for.
- ❖ So, when the women went to the tomb on Sunday morning to do their last act of embalming and preparing Jesus' body for His long sleep of death, they didn't know what to do, how to respond, how to react when they encountered an angel and heard his message: "He is not here. He is risen, as He said" (Matthew 28:6).
- ❖ We can certainly say that they shouldn't have been surprised, because any words from the lips of Jesus were totally trustworthy. But still. Rising from the dead is on a whole different level!
- ❖ As we gather together today, it is not simply a celebration of Jesus' victory over death, hell and the grave. The reason for this celebration, and the reason we designate this day as the greatest day on our calendar, is because of what it means for us.
- ❖ Jesus' resurrection confirms His claim to be the "I AM", the Almighty God.
- ❖ His resurrection guarantees forgiveness of sin and eternal life for all who believe.
- ❖ His resurrection guarantees that we can receive His Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Without His resurrection, nothing else Jesus did would have been of the slightest benefit to us. He would just have been another dead holy man, devoid of any power to save. It would have been just as the Jews said: 'He couldn't even save Himself' (Matt. 27:42).
- ❖ However, the truth is He arose and offers His free gift of eternal life to each and every one of us!

**KEY SCRIPTURES: Matthew 28:1-10; (John 1:29; Isaiah 53:3); John 3:16**

- ❖ The fact of the physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus has strengthened and sustained countless numbers of our brothers and sisters over the centuries, especially as they have gone through severe persecution.
- ❖ As we read through the first chapter of Revelation, just before the messages to the various churches encouraging them to stand strong, Jesus states that He is the "I Am" (Revelation 1:8).
- ❖ When John had this awesome vision of Jesus, he fell on the ground before Him, like a dead man. But Jesus laid His hand on him and told him not to be afraid (Rev. 1:17-18).
- ❖ The knowledge of His resurrection is so commonplace to us now that we don't jump and shout, scream and cry tears of joy as we really should.
- ❖ The fact is, Jesus rose from the dead and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep, as Paul makes clear in 1 Corinthians He also makes it abundantly clear in this passage that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the critical centerpiece of Christianity. Without the resurrection, we have *no hope* whatsoever of everlasting life.
- ❖ The outcome of the resurrection is that we can be freed from the shackles of sin and have the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9) dwelling within us. We can become part of God's global family and have His name placed upon us through baptism.
- ❖ So, on this day, Easter Sunday, the greatest day of the year, let's Celebrate Jesus! Celebrate His atoning sacrifice! Celebrate His resurrection! Celebrate salvation! Celebrate new life in Christ! Celebrate our brothers and sisters in Christ! Celebrate eternal life! Celebrate Heaven!
- ❖ It's Celebration Sunday and we've got to celebrate our risen Lord!

**DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS**

1. The angel said, "He is not here. He is risen, as He said" (Matt. 28:6). What comes to your thoughts upon hearing these words?
2. When you hear the words "the love of God," what is the first thing to come into your mind?
3. Take a moment to ponder the fact that Jesus died for your sins. Take time to express your thanksgiving and to celebrate Jesus!

**PRAYER TIME**

Lord, You have been so good to me, every day you're blessing me! I vow to take the time to glorify You, Lord, today.

Start-up: What are things you take the time to celebrate? What do you do to celebrate?

**WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021**

**NOTES**

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms)  
 (New idea)  
 (Think about)

(Do this)  
 (Speaks to my heart)  
 (Must share)

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**PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS**

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Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
**CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to [announcements@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:announcements@faithsanctuary.com) by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to [media@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:media@faithsanctuary.com).)

### To register for in-person Sunday services:

Go to [www.faithsanctuary.com](http://www.faithsanctuary.com) > click the "Eventbrite" link in the top menu and follow prompts

Time: Church doors open at 10:15 a.m. & close at 11:00 a.m.

**\*Public Health protocols to be observed\***

### FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to [www.faithsanctuary.com/give](http://www.faithsanctuary.com/give)  
For email transfers, please use [donate@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:donate@faithsanctuary.com)

### Up from the grave He arose

With a mighty triumph o'er His foes

He arose the victor from the dark domain,

And He lives forever with His saints to reign

He arose! He arose! Hallelujah, Christ arose!

### FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study

SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE

SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service  
Rebroadcast

MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on  
Zoom, Facebook, YouTube

WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service  
Rebroadcast

## FAITH FOUNDATIONS

### GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

### GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

### GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

### HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

### THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

### OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

### CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

APRIL 4, 2021

# Faith SANCTUARY

Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"But the angel answered and said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.'"*

Matthew 28:5-7

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