

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 4TH—5TH, 2026 // RESURRECTION

RESURRECTION (LUKE 24:1-8)

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

Easter is one of the most attended services of the year. Some of us are here because someone invited us. Other reasons might be tradition, curiosity, or a need for hope.

- We will talk about the resurrection, why Jesus had to die on the cross, the veil being torn (which gave us access to God), and God's desire to give us new life.

RESURRECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING

If the resurrection didn't happen, then faith and sharing the gospel would be useless (1 Corinthians 15).

It proves that Jesus is who He said He was, His sacrifice was accepted by God, and death has been defeated. He is risen!

- **We don't have to live in fear and despair. We don't have to work for what Jesus has already finished. Will we surrender?**

EMPTY TOMB

The women came expecting a dead Jesus but found an empty tomb. The angels ask, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?"

- **Are we looking for life in dead places?** We look for life in success, relationships, money, comfort, and religion. **Life is found in a relationship with Jesus. He wants to give us new life.**

CROSS (MATTHEW 27:32-44)

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE ON THE CROSS?

Before there was an empty tomb, there was a brutal cross. From the very beginning, when sin entered the world, God promised a Savior (Genesis 3:15). This wasn't God reacting; it was God revealing His plan.

- The cross shows us two things at the same time: 1) **How sinful we are, and 2) how loved we are. We are not an afterthought.**

WE COULDN'T SAVE OURSELVES

Jesus also died because we couldn't save ourselves. No amount of good works can erase sin, and no amount of effort can make us right with God. Only a perfect, spotless sacrifice could pay for the debt we owe.

- Let go of striving, earning, and trying to fix ourselves. All we can do is **surrender and receive what Jesus has already done.**

JESUS TOOK OUR PLACE

Jesus lived the life we couldn't live and died the death we deserved to die. On the cross, He didn't just die for a few sins; He bore the full weight of humanity's guilt. Jesus endured all of that on our behalf so we wouldn't have to.

- He died this death **so we could experience grace, forgiveness, and new life. How have we responded?**

VEIL TORN (MATTHEW 27:50-54)

JESUS DIES AND GIVES UP HIS SPIRIT

After being tortured and hanging on the cross for six hours, Jesus "cried out again with a loud voice and gave up His spirit," and "**suddenly, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn...**the earth quaked, and the rocks were split."

- This "terrified" several soldiers, and they realized "this man was the Son of God!"

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEMPLE VEIL

The veil in the Jewish temple originated in the time of Moses, when the Jews were told to construct a mobile tabernacle to worship and house the presence of God (Exodus 26).

- This four-inch-thick curtain divided humanity from the Holy of Holies that housed the Ark that represented God's Spirit.

TORN FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

The temple veil was torn from top to bottom (God's doing). The veil separated people from God's presence—only one person, once a year, could enter. Before Jesus, access was limited, distant, and mediated. **Now, access is direct, personal, and immediate.**

- Jesus didn't just die to forgive sin; **He died to restore relationship.**

NEW LIFE (ROMANS 8:11-17)

A REVERSAL OF OUR MISTAKES

The veil being torn was an undoing of the separation between God and man, and the resurrection of Christ was an undoing of our fear of death. Both were brought upon by our sin.

- Today, we celebrate the grace and mercy of God to give us a blank slate, a fresh start, and the promise of Heaven!

THE SPIRIT NOW LIVES IN BELIEVERS

The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead now lives in Believers. If we have an authentic relationship with Jesus, then we are no longer slaves to sin and the flesh. We have new life and are being transformed.

- **Believers, stop going back to what Jesus freed us from. We can be free because the Spirit lives in us.**

ADOPTED AS CHILDREN OF GOD

When we surrender to Jesus and begin a relationship with Him, we are adopted as children of God. We are not only forgiven but brought into the family. We share in His inheritance and identity (coheirs with Christ).

- **When we take on this new identity, the Spirit gives us direction, enables us to love, and gives us real value and worth.**

WHY THIS MATTERS

- The cross, the empty tomb, the veil being torn, and the Spirit of God isn't just theology—it's personal. **God is personal.**
- This matters because our ways aren't working. Jesus didn't come just to improve our lives; **He came to give us new life**—a life filled with **peace, contentment, love, and hope** (an abundant life).
- Without Jesus, sin is still separating you from God. Guilt is still weighing you down. Death is still the end of the story.
- Because of Jesus, our sin can be forgiven. Our pasts can be redeemed. Our lives can be made new.
- The veil is torn. We are invited into a relationship with God. **What's stopping us?**

WHY IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS

- Will we keep living life our way, or will we surrender all of who we are to Jesus?
- **We don't have forever to decide.**
- Jesus meets people in their brokenness. **Jesus didn't die for a future, cleaned-up version of us.** He died for us as we are right now. If we surrender to Him, our lives will be transformed from the inside out.

WHAT NOW?

- We need to realize that we need help, ask for forgiveness, and **repent** (turn).
- Consider getting **baptized** A.S.A.P.
- **Pray** every day (P.R.A.Y.).
- **Find a church**, and go consistently.
- Get a Bible, start reading the New Testament first, and **obey** what the Word says.