

*EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> 2020*

*DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC*

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Opening Prayer: On this Resurrection Morning, we can relate to the Disciples as they were behind closed doors, holding fast to the expectation of tomorrow. We celebrate with ringing church bells reminding us that YOU HAVE RISEN! YOU HAVE RISEN INDEED! Just as you said. Today, we miss celebrating with family, friends, our church and so we pray for connection as only you can bring. Fill our hearts with your resurrection JOY on this most Holy day. In your Name we pray ... amen."

Hymn: Christ The Lord Has Risen Today

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
  
2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
  
3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!
  
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
  
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!  
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!

Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!

Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!

Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!

Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!



*Church Mice.*

READ: The RESURRECTION ACCOUNTS

- Matthew 28
- Mark 16
- Luke 24
- John 20

\*Which did you like the best? Which did you like the least? Why?

\*Our Narrative Lectionary has us in Mark's Gospel this time around. How did you like the "abrupt" ending? Some scholars believe the longer account was added later. Interestingly, Mark is our oldest Gospel, it's the one that was written first. I find that interesting! The Resurrection is the single most important act of the New Testament and yet it only gets a short take – huh?

The items in your bag reminded me of the above cartoon:

“Excuse Me, We’d Like To Talk To You About “Cheesus!” – Ha! It’s one of my favorites, and many of you have heard me say it. Our J.A.M. Kids know too. NOW IS THE TIME to “Share Your Jesus” like never before. I have found especially during this pandemic that people are “hungry” for God. So, perhaps spend some time praying how God might use YOU for “Such a time as this”.

Thus ... the Mac & Cheese and Cheese Fish (smile) “Fishers-of-People”

And ... I LOVE CHEESE and I LOVE JESUS!

Water – In John 7:37-39 Jesus talks about himself as “Living Water”. Remember to stay hydrated during this time both physically and Spiritually.

KISS – Not only reminds us of Judas betrayal, but also reminds us of “God’s Sweet Kiss” of giving us His SON. I also believe that God sends us “Sweet Kisses” just when we need it. Be aware of those, and be blessed. He loves us/you and gives us Kisses.

Peppermint – again reminds us of Jesus Body and Blood. Don’t ever forget this sacrifice for our forgiveness of sin. John 3:16. In John 3 – Jesus and Pharisee Nicodemus have a nighttime conversation. Go back and re-read this week.

Eggs – Reminds us of resurrection and New Life. Never think you can’t “start over” or that you are too far gone from God’s reach. This Resurrection means just that – NEW, DO OVER, FORGIVEN! Just like a caterpillar to a butterfly – transformed.

Sweet Treat – Good thing I saved these from Christmas because who knew it would be snowing on EASTER! 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:15 speaks of the “aroma of Christ” and how we as Christians will give off a “sweet aroma” to those seeking Jesus. Those whose hearts are hardened .. might find this scent unappealing. I vote for “Sweet”.

LIFESAVER – John 11 is one of my favorites which gives us the account of The Raising of Lazarus. This event is what set in motion Jesus Crucifixion. My favorite part though is when Mary and Martha let Jesus “have it” – Ha! Out along the road ... and Jesus says, “I Am the Resurrection and the Life, do you believe this? \*insert YOUR Name “I am the resurrection and the life. Do you believe this \_\_\_\_\_?”

\*NEXT WEEK – We are going to continue on with some “Post-Resurrection” encounters because I think it’s really important for us in this time and place to be able to “SEE” Jesus, don’t you? So ... stay tuned.

Closing Prayer – Lord Jesus, Thank You for loving us so much that you died for our sins. On this Resurrection day, in the midst of rain , snow, and different ... remind us again that because of YOU ... WE are different! We are sealed by your blood. Help us to live as EASTER People now and in the days to come, amen.!

A Blessed EASTER to you and Your Family!

Pastor Lori

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