

EASTER SUNDAY

HE IS RISEN!

Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

LUKE 24:5-9

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

ROMANS 5:9-11

REFLECTION

"About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he wrought surprising feats. He was the Christ. When Pilate condemned him to be crucified, those who had come to love him did not give up their affection for him. On the third day he appeared restored to life and the tribe of Christians has not disappeared."

Josephus (Jewish historian, 93AD)

If the resurrection is true, then it's all true. If the resurrection is not true, then none of it is true. If Christ literally was raised from the grave, then we have all the reason in the world to have hope and to live transformed lives. If he did not rise from the grave, then the Bible itself says we are to be pitied above all men.

Matt Chandler

RESURRECTION

O God of my Exodus,

Great was the joy of Israel's sons, when Egypt died upon the shore,
Far greater the joy when the Redeemer's foe lay crushed in the dust.

Jesus strides forth as the victor, conqueror of death, hell, and all
opposing might;

He bursts the bands of death, tramples the powers of darkness down,
and lives for ever.

He, my gracious surety, apprehended for payment of my debt, comes
forth from the prison house of the grave free, and triumphant over sin,
Satan, and death.

Show me herein the proof that his vicarious offering is accepted, that
the claims of justice are satisfied, that the devil's sceptre is shivered,
that his wrongful throne is levelled.

Give me the assurance that in Christ I died, in him I rose, in his life I live,
in his victory I triumph, in his ascension I shall be glorified.

Adorable Redeemer, thou who was lifted up upon a cross art
ascended to highest heaven.

Thou, who as Man of sorrows wast crowned with thorns, art now as
Lord of life wreathed with glory.

Once, no shame more deep than thine, no agony more bitter, no
death more cruel.

Now, no exaltation more high, no life more glorious, no advocate more
effective.

Thou art in the triumph car leading captive thine enemies behind thee.

What more could be done than thou hast done! Thy death is my life,
thy resurrection my peace, thy ascension my hope, thy prayers my
comfort.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES | APRIL 20

CHILLIWACK: 8.30AM | 9.45AM | 11.00AM | 5.15PM

AGASSIZ: 10.45AM

PROMONTORY: 10.45AM

LAKE ERROCK: 9.00AM

HARRISON: 10.45AM

PRAYER

Exalted and resurrected Jesus, we join the apostle Peter's bold declaration of living hope and great joy. For you have risen from the dead, and this good news changes everything.

Because of your resurrection, we're neither afraid to die nor afraid to live; we're not hapless vagabonds on earth but hope-filled children of God. We're no longer enslaved to our sins; we're now wrapped in your righteousness. Those who have "gone to sleep" in you aren't slumbering in the void; they're rejoicing in your presence. Hallelujah!

Because of your resurrection, we're less to be pitied than anybody and more to be grateful than anybody (1 Cor. 15:14-19). You are the first fruits and guarantee of a whole new order—the "new creation" dominion of redemption and restoration. Everything sad will come untrue, and all things broken will be made new. How we long for that day!

Because of your resurrection, you are already reigning as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. All evil dominions, wicked authorities, and malevolent powers now stand defeated, and one day they will be fully eradicated. Hallelujah, many times over!

Jesus, your death is the death of death, and your resurrection is the resurrection of all things. You died for our sins and have been raised for our justification. Oh, the wonder, marvel, and gratitude that fills our hearts today. We are forgiven, we are beloved, and we are yours!

In light of this living hope and compelling love, this measureless grace and eternal inheritance, free us for spending the rest of our days living and loving to your glory. We pray, Jesus, in your resurrected and reigning name.

Amen.