

EASTER SUNDAY

The Victory of Christ Crucified Is Given to You in the Preaching of His Resurrection



Background: I guess you could have seen it coming. First Jairus daughter and Peter's mother were saved from death. Then the young widow's son from Naan was raised from the dead as he was being carried to the cemetery for burial. Then 1 week before Palm Sunday, Christ raised Lazarus from the dead after his body started to rot, per his sister Martha. For some, it was obvious Jesus was the Son of God. But for people who had hardened their heart against Jesus, He needed to be killed. So on Palm Sunday, the same day the pascal lamb without blemish was selected for the "Passover lamb", Christ rode into Jerusalem on a

He is Risen. I will return. Artist Unknown

donkey, with the purpose of being the once and for all "Sacrificial lamb" to pay for all the sins of the world. But again, earthly death could not contain Christ! He rose from the dead! The people who lead in his indictment for crucifixion, asked that soldiers be placed at the grave, so his body could not be stolen. But an angel simply came down from heaven to show the world that the tomb was empty. The poor soldiers were so overwhelmed that they became like dead men. Inside the empty tomb was the napkin of his head covering. It was neatly folded and placed at the head of his resting place. This simply meant that Christ would return. Paul plainly tells us that since "***we have been raised with Christ, we are to set our minds on things above, not earthly things. Our life is now hidden with Christ in God. When he comes, we appear with Him in glory.***"

The Lessons: Acts 10:34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6, Colossians 3:1–4, & Matthew 28:1–10 Every Sunday is the Lord's day, the day of His resurrection, "*after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week*" (Matt. 28:1). In the Divine Service, the Church enters upon the eternal "eighth day." The Lord Jesus, "*who was crucified,*" who "*has risen, as he said*" (Matt. 28:5–6), is the firstborn from the dead and the firstfruits of the new creation. Because "*you have died*" with Him in Holy Baptism, "*you have been raised with Christ*" and "*your life is hidden with Christ in God*" (Col. 3:1, 3). The Lord Jesus has become our God, as surely as He is "*the God of all the clans of Israel,*" and we now belong to His people (Jer. 31:1). In this, He "*shows no partiality*" (Acts 10:34), but "*everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name*" (Acts 10:43). As "*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power*" and "*raised him on the third day,*" He also raises us up and pours out His Spirit upon us through the Gospel (Acts 10:38, 40).