

Sermon Title: The Resurrected Jesus 4.5.2026

Themes: Faithfulness, prophecy, prayer, and promises. Live-streaming and sermon notes are at trinitycg.org.

Focus Question: What are you really celebrating today?

Sermon Points: 1. Faithfulness. Luke 24:1–9. The women went to the tomb early in the morning. The stone was rolled away from the tomb. As they entered, they saw that it was empty! **Luke 24:5** **And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”** Powerful question! Why do *we* look for the living among the dead? Have you noticed that you feel relaxed at church? The spiritual feeling is real. The “real” world is real, but it is real for only a *really* short time. What we know of the world is always coming and going. The America we grew up in is mostly gone. It is passing away, except for its form. How you feel about it is different now. Physical reality is fleeting and constantly changing. Spiritual reality, the Kingdom of God, is forever. What you sense here is what *every* redeemed believer has felt when they were in communion with other believers since the time of Christ! We feel at peace *here* because it is a glimpse of our eternal home in *Heaven*. If a Roman *Centurion* from 2,000 years ago were to visit Rome today, he would report that the feeling of being there just isn’t the same. If a Roman *Christian* from 2,000 years ago were to visit us today, she would report that her joy and peace are precisely how she remembers them.

2. Prophecy. Jesus warned His disciples what was going to happen to Him. **Matthew 26:1-4.** They could think of no good reason to arrest Him. No charge of criminal wrongdoing would hold up under the scrutiny of the Roman legal system, and certainly nothing deserving of death. The Romans could be cruel, but they weren’t gullible. Whereas the Romans would have been happy to leave Jesus alone, His own people, led by the religious elite, conspired to arrest Jesus through bribery, corruption, and deceit. They could not arrest Him for what He had done since healing and helping were not crimes in the Empire, so they charged Him for committing a crime that they were doing...blasphemy. **Matthew 26:59–68.** Blasphemy is the act of speaking sacrilegiously about God. That is precisely what they did...they blasphemed against Jesus...God the Son! Then again, it was the prophecy of the Messiah falling into place. **Isaiah 53:3-7.** That prophecy is for our profit because we are His portion and His possession! We feel at home here because we belong to Him!

3. Prayer. Would you like Jesus to pray for you? Prior to Judas betraying Jesus into the hands of those who wanted to kill Him, our Savior prayed this prayer: **John 17:1–2.** He has authority over life, and yet He still went to the cross to give His life for us. **John 17:9–10 and 14-21.** It was a beautiful prayer made more powerful because He prayed it knowing He was going to be betrayed on our behalf!

4. Promises. Mark 8:31. Just as Jesus changed your life, Easter changes everything! Christ’s resurrection turned defeat into victory, devastation into celebration, disappointment into unsurpassed joy, confusion into conviction, unbelief into commitment, passive observers into powerful witnesses, persecutors into martyrs, and sinners into the saved! We have Good Friday because there was a *crucifixion*. We have Easter because there was a *resurrection*! We have salvation because there was an *ascension*. Just as Jesus promised He would be killed, He promises He will be with His people. **Matthew 28:18–20.** If you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have seen a dead man or woman live anew: that person is you! Easter Sunday is faith, love, and hope wrapped in one day, embodied in one Man, and secured by one Savior! When followers of Jesus Christ breath our last breath and step into eternity, we will look around and declare emphatically, “He is risen, and so am I!”

Reflection: Dear Lord, ready our heart, mind, and strength for the work of Your Kingdom!