

Easter 2022, Bethany Lutheran Church Laurens, IA

Luke 24:1-12

Grace, Peace, and mercy from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

“Why do you seek the living among the dead?” The messengers told the women. “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 crucified and on the third day rise?”

St. Luke concludes the pervious chapter before this account with the Jesus on the cross dying to deliver us from our sins. Jesus gives up His spirit saying, “Into Your hands I commit my spirit. Then the camera pans back and there is a Roman centurion standing by the cross and he says, “Certainly this man was innocent.” The camera gives a wider shot and the crowds come into view. They witness the spectacle say Luke. The beat their breasts returning home after seeing what had taken place. The angle gets just a bit wider and women who had followed Jesus from Galilee watch from a distance.

Then the focus is on Joseph of Arimathea who did not agree with the Jewish council’s action of which he was member and looking for the Kingdom of God took the body of Jesus and placed Him in a tomb. The Women from Galilee followed so thy would know where Jesus was laid. They notice how the body is laid and wrapped in the linen. Spices were prepared but the day of Sabbath rest was upon them, so they rested.

Some of us are old enough to remember how the Old TV when you turned them off a white dot got smaller and smaller until it was finally gone. On Saturday, the screen is dark. It must had been that way for the women who had followed Jesus from Galilee. Imagine tears flowed and not a lot of sleeping. Probably waiting for the sun to come up on the first day of the week. Now the screen is beginning to come to life again though the white dot is small and women who had followed Jesus from Galilee are up at early dawn on their way to the tomb. Luke reports nothing of what they talked about, like Matthew does. Luke just wants to get them to the tomb so they can complete the job of the burial process. But they are not prepared for what comes next. They arrive at the burial place and find the stone rolled away. They enter the tomb and Jesus’ body is not there. What they

did not find will become the greatest discovery to celebrate. The they are not at that place yet. That light or dot is still coming into view. They perplexed not ready to celebrate. They see, stone rolled away, no body. They see all that, yet they do not understand. They are perplexed.

I bet you all have been there. Perplexed about many things. You see, but unable to process what has taken place. You are at an utter loss of what to do next. How to move forward.

There are some things that we cannot understand on our own. The mystery is too deep. The wonder too high. Nothing in our life experience to relate to what is happening. And that is when angels tend to show up. That is why angels appear to Mary, to Joseph, and to the shepherds at Christmas time.

This what happens at the tomb. "And behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel." They are frightened at this sight. Ordinarily when angels show up, they say, "Fear not." Not here. They bow their faces to the ground. So, on top of being perplexed, they are frightened. These angels have showed up to give the remedy for their perplexity. And perhaps our too. "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen." Now the angels give the remedy for their perplexity. "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."

Now the light or that dot on the screen has grown to its fullness. "And they remembered Jesus' words while on the road in Galilee."

It is The resurrection of our Lord from the dead that confirms that His Words are true and worthy of our trust. Easter and the resurrection of our Lord are God the Father's stamp of all that Christ has done for us and our salvation.

"The Women Remembered His words," and by remembering His words they go from utter loss to wonderful Discovery. From fear with faces to the ground to relief and utter joy. Ready to go and continue the faith journey.

During this Lenten tide we reflected on the Lord's Prayer and its meaning for our life as disciples of Jesus. How we can approach God as our Father as child comes to their Father. We pray that God's name is Holy in our lives, That His break in among us and that will be being done even today as in heaven will the devil and

all of His schemes are frustrated and snuffed out. We pray for daily bread to help remember who the source is of all our gifts for living. We pray for our forgiveness to keep our need for Christ ever in our mind and remembrance and also to be forgiving people. We pray for our Father to lead us not in temptation but deliver us from evil. And Jesus has delivered us from the wages of our sins through His work of the cross, He has delivered us from the fear of death to the sure and certain hope of eternal life and of this is confirmed at Easter in the resurrection. So today we come to the conclusion of this prayer Jesus taught us. It simply, "Amen!" It is a word that means it is true. It does mean that the service is over. It means it is true and may it be so for us today.

And it was so for the women at the tomb that day. They returned from the tomb and proclaiming all that had happened there.

And it is for us also, but maybe better. Peter responds and runs to the tomb to see and finds folded linens. He marvels at this. For us it is true for today, remember the Words of Christ, "I baptize You in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Remembering That you have been baptized into His death in order just as Christ was raised from the dead we too might walk in newness of life. By remembering May it be so for us today. And In eating and drinking Christ's body and blood we call to memory all that our crucified Lord has done for us. From loss to life in the new creation of the Easter faith so that the former things will not be remembered. Only Life in The Kingdom, and power and glory of What God has done for us. That is our amen of Easter. May it be so for you today and tomorrow and rest of our lives. What a difference it makes!

Christ is risen. He has risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.