

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Quincy, IL
Rev. Martin Eden

Easter
Sunday, March 31, 2024, at 6:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 31, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

“He is Risen! And He is Here!”

Mark 16:1-8

Christ is Risen!! He is Risen indeed!! Alleluia!!

The joy of Easter! The triumph of this day! We celebrate the empty tomb; we celebrate the risen Lord. The angels proclaimed to the women who went to the tomb, “You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here.”

You, who have come to God’s House to celebrate this greatest day of the year, “You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, and He *is* here.” What a joy that we do not have to search for the Savior of the world. He has risen, and He *is* here.

In the weeks of Lent, in our Wednesday Bible class, we have turned our attention to the petition of the Lord’s Prayer “Thy Will Be Done.” We have been working our way through the petitions of the Lord’s Prayer for many months now. Prayer, especially the Lord’s Prayer, has been at the front of my mind for quite a while.

This past year, here at Our Redeemer, we had another recurring theme: “Come and see.” Those words were spoken at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry

when the apostle Philip encouraged Nathaniel to “come and see” that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah promised by Moses and the prophets.

Now, at the end, the angel spoke to the women at Jesus’ empty tomb on that first Easter morning and they said, “See the place where they laid Him.” Come and see. He is not here, He is risen.

The women at the tomb were astonished, amazed, filled with fear – you can hardly blame them. But they didn’t yet understand what had happened. Jesus had taught them to pray, “Thy Kingdom Come.” Their prayer has been answered.

Today we also see the answer to the prayer “Thy Kingdom Come”. This is a petition we continue to pray that God’s Kingdom of Grace, His Church on Earth, would come to me and to you and to everyone – so that everyone may know the joy of salvation. And we pray for God’s Kingdom of Glory, His Church in Heaven, to come – for Christ to return that we may see Him face to face and participate in our resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

“Thy Kingdom Come” is the prayer of those who are longing for the presence of God. The Kingdom of God has come. Don’t think of the Kingdom of God as a place around which you can build a fence. The Kingdom of God is wherever Christ the King reigns. He has come into His kingdom. He is risen, and He is here.

Today is a good day also to turn our attention to the conclusion of the Lord’s Prayer, “For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and

ever. Amen.” The Kingdom we pray for; the Kingdom we long for is already His. The reality of the Kingdom of God is present already. The resurrection is a reality. Christ is Risen!! He is Risen Indeed!! Alleluia!! It is what we celebrate this Easter morning. It is here now, but not yet do we see the fullness of all that is to come – the fullness of the power and the glory of God’s eternal Kingdom.

On this Easter morning, we celebrate that the Kingdom of God has come. We celebrate the power of God – His power over death. Jesus is risen! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! He is no longer in the tomb. We celebrate the glory of God. The glory of the risen Savior; the glory of the empty tomb; the glory of the One and only who could break forth from the bonds of death. Even more, the glory of the One who has broken deaths hold on you and me.

We celebrate Christ our risen Lord – our King who is risen from the dead. We pray “For Thine *is* the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.” God’s Kingdom *is* a reality this day. The power and glory of His eternal Kingdom is what we celebrate this Easter morning.

“You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He *has* risen, and He *is* here.” The risen Christ comes to us in flesh and blood. And we say to all who God places in our lives, “Come and see.”

The Easter miracle is the reality of the resurrection of the body. He is risen. The tomb is empty. He is no longer there. But He is here. It is a profound mystery that we are blessed with the physical presence of God Himself as He comes to us under the form of bread and wine. But we get to participate in a

miracle. This is a really big deal.

Last week, we had Confirmation and I was thinking about when I received the sacrament for the first time. When I confirmed the faith of my Baptism, we didn't have Early Communion or First Communion before Confirmation. There is a reason to be excited about receiving this for the first time. That was 42 years ago. I came into this week excited that I would get to receive the body and blood of Christ five times in five days. There is a reason to be excited about receiving this every time.

The broken body and shed blood of Christ was given and shed for you. The Kingdom and the power and the glory of God are here for you. God's Kingdom is a reality this day. The power and glory of His eternal Kingdom is what we celebrate in the resurrection this Easter morning.

"You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He *has* risen, and He *is* here."

His Kingdom has come. There is an empty tomb. Come and see.

His will is done. He has delivered us from evil. We pray "For Thine *is* the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen."

Christ is Risen!! He is Risen indeed!! Alleluia!!

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.