

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Quincy, IL
Rev. Martin Eden

Easter
Sunday, April 20, 2025, at 6:30 a.m.
Sunday, April 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

“Believe the Good News”

Luke 24:1-12

Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!!

Today, we’re stepping into a mystery—the mystery of Easter, the mystery of a God who works through a cross, not a crown. As we reflect on Christ’s resurrection, I want us to hold two pictures in our minds: one from Paul, writing boldly about victory over death, and one from Luke, telling a quieter story of an empty tomb and bewildered disciples. Together, they reveal something profound about how God meets us—not in the places we expect, but in the shadow of suffering, in the weakness of a crucified Savior.

The Eleven remaining disciples had heard the words of Christ, had witnessed or heard about all of His miraculous signs. They had heard Him predict on numerous occasions that the Christ had to be lifted up on the cross, but in three days would rise from the dead. Nevertheless, the disciples dismissed these woman and their message of the resurrection because it was just too good to be true. It “seemed to them an idle tale,” Luke tells us.

Compare and contrast that to the words of St. Paul’s letter to the

Corinthians: “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead.” The cross and empty tomb subverts human expectations. The cross reveals God’s power in what appears weak and foolish to the world. In 1 Corinthians 15, the resurrection is the triumph of the cross, and it is a fact.

The disciples had a profound lack of understanding in regard to the Lord’s passion: His suffering and death; and their disbelief of the resurrection was equally great. The news of Christ’s death did not make sense – it wasn’t supposed to be this way. Great leaders don’t surrender and get executed. The news of His resurrection made even less sense. Dead men don’t get up and walk. But what about Lazarus? What about Jairus’ daughter and the boy at Nain? With Jesus, the dead do rise from the grave.

Again, Paul tells us: “For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

The same blindness that plagued the disciples has permeated the hearts and minds of mankind ever since. The world has either ignored or dismissed this wonderful Good News of Christ’s sacrifice to pay the ransom price for the sins of the world and His subsequent resurrection from the dead, ensuring God’s faithful that just as He is risen from the dead, so shall we rise to live with Him through all eternity. The world and our sinful nature says: “It’s too much to believe;” “It

seems to be an idle tale.” Our sensibilities tell us that if something seems too good to be true, then it probably is too good to be true.

The message of the angels, “He is not here, but has risen” brings divine revelation in the midst of human confusion and disbelief. The empty tomb is a sign of resurrection, but it’s not a blazing display of glory that compels belief. Instead, it’s a mystery that baffles the women and is met with skepticism by the apostles. We are reminded that God hides Himself in weakness and suffering, revealing Himself to faith, not sight.

Nor does God operate within the limitations of the reason and rationale of our feeble minds. In the beginning, God created a world in which perfect goodness and perfect truth were not only possible, but they were the intended reality of God’s creating Word.

Of course, God’s creation was spoiled by God’s created son Adam and was turned from perfect goodness to total corruption. To fix the problem that ails the world, God promised to send His only-begotten Son. However, the vast majority of Adam’s descendants said, “That seems too good to be true.” And they went their own way.

Christ was born of a virgin in Bethlehem, just as the prophets had foretold, but even most of the so-called “faithful” children of Israel had long since dismissed God’s Word as a hope that seemed just too good to be true.

When Christ came preaching, teaching, and performing miracles, some asked: "Could this be the Christ?" But on second thought, "No, that seems too good to be true." Besides, "He is not the kind of Messiah we are looking for."

We are now living in the final age. Christ has promised that He will return and all the faithful will join Him in His kingdom which has no end. Heaven and earth shall pass away, and a new heaven and a new earth will last for all eternity. How many people in our lives have dismissed these promises of God as being little more than an idle tale?

Like those women at the tomb on Easter morning, we have been presented with the greatest of all news: Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!!

With God, goodness and truth are not separated. They are not mutually exclusive. God and His Word are filled with both. Easter is a day filled with both goodness and truth. Christ offering Himself as the final sacrifice on the altar of the cross perfectly displayed God's character. He is goodness personified.

In Christ rising from the dead and thereby fulfilling all of God's promises made throughout the ages and all of His promises made to His disciples, He is revealed as the Author of truth and the only truth. There is only one truth that matters today: Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!! Amen.