

MONDAY 4.21.25 - Psalm 16:8-11

King David composed Psalm 16. In it, he prophetically spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah. In the synagogue of Pisidian Antioch, Paul proclaimed the good news of Christ. Paul explained that Jesus died, was buried, but rose from the dead. Paul quotes Psalm 16 for proof of the resurrection. ““You will not let your Holy One see decay.’ For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay. Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.”

Praise God that faith in the risen Christ gives us forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 4.22.25 - 1 Corinthians15:3-4

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The Resurrection story is filled with awe and wonder. As we reflect on His resurrection today, I want you to think about two things. First, that when they saw Jesus for the first time after His resurrection, they “clasped” at His feet and worshiped Him. The day is coming when we will see Jesus for the first time, and we will clasp at His feet and worship Him. What a wonderful day that will be. Secondly, even before they saw Him, they believed He was alive, and they were filled with joy. Does the thought that Jesus is alive fill you with joy? It should. His death paid for our sins. His resurrection assures us that we will spend eternity with Him. That thought should surely cause you to be filled with Joy. My prayer for you today is that you experience the joy of this Easter season in new and refreshing ways.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 4.23.25 - John 20:11-18

Earlier in John’s gospel, Jesus told His disciples, “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete” (15:11). The center of joy for a Christian is Christ. It is simply the life of the Lord Jesus Christ being lived out by a believer. Christian joy is letting Christ live His life out through you so that what He is, you become. There are other kinds of joy found in other places in the world, but there is no place where you can find Christian joy except in Christ. He is the source of that joy. One follower of Jesus expressed it in these words: “Joy is the flag that is flown over the castle of your heart when the King is in residence.” Are you experiencing joy today? Is Jesus at home in your life?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 4.24.25 - Nehemiah 8:10

What a powerful phrase this is! “The joy of the Lord is your strength!” The Jews had returned to Jerusalem and were in

the process of restoration. Nehemiah, the governor, focused on rebuilding the walls, while Ezra, the priest, focused on rebuilding the spiritual lives of the people. The people spent an entire day listening to the Word of God read to them at length. This generation did not know this law and were moved to the quick by what they heard. Wanting to obey it but now seeing their sinful selves, they saw the distance between them and their God. But Ezra and Nehemiah told them that God took joy in them. And if God took joy in them, that was the substance of their strength. The same is true for you and me. In our sinful selves we are nothing, but God takes joy in us, and this is our strength to live for Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 4.25.25 - Psalm 47:1

Have you ever given God a round of applause? I’m not sure I have, but today’s Scripture commands all nations to “clap your hands” and “shout to God with joy.” We usually show our love and appreciation for the Lord through testimony and song. Why not clap? We often applaud performers for their efforts. And sometimes the pastor’s sermon generates an amen or two after he shares the glory of God with us. But our joy in the Lord should be evident without human endeavors and enhancements. We should clap for God because of **who He is** and **what He has done!** Next time you are treated to the wonders of God’s paintbrush: a beautiful sunrise or sunset, a rainbow, the flowers of spring..., or are treated to the music of God’s orchestra: a murmuring brook, the roar of the ocean, or the songs of the birds..., celebrate God by clapping in appreciation and joy.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

Kids	CHILDREN’S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade) LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
Youth	E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade) LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
Adults	SPRING QUARTER - Sunday Mornings at 9:40 LOCATION: B8-10 - Lane Kemler- began March 2 nd . EXPLORE THE BIBLE - 1,2 Peter & Jude - These books were written primarily to address suffering caused by persecution and to combat false teachings. LOCATION: B11 Randy Hutchison - begins April 27 th . BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE - part 2 Elisha: Seeing the Hand of God at Work - This Old Testament prophet did miracles that pointed to the God he served. God can work through you, too. LOCATION: B1&2 - Joel Day - begins April 27 th . Out of the Cave - How Elijah Embraced God’s Hope When Darkness Was All He Could See This study examines the causes of depression and discouragement and offers a Biblical approach to wellness - mind, body, and soul.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

Kids	MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade) LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level No Messiah Kids on Sunday, April 20th
Youth	YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade) LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street) No Messiah Kids on Sunday, April 20th
Adults	LOCATION: Worship Center No Evening Services on Sunday, April 20th

SPRING SMALL GROUPS

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY - Begins April 23rd - Rm. B8-10

TOGETHER - Community That Marked the Acts 2 Church
Discover how being deeply connected to a community of believers can transform our lives, our cities, and the world. With Barry Wills

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES,
USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

John 20:1-10
20/20 Vision

John 20 presents three ways to view the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1. LOOK OF _____ (vv 1-2)

The word translated “saw” in verse 1 is the Greek word *blepo*. It means “to take a glance.” Luke tells us that Mary came with spices to put on the body of Jesus. When Mary arrives at the tomb, she makes two amazing discoveries.

- Displacement of the S_____
- Disappearance of the S_____

2. LOOK OF _____ (vv 3-7)

The word translated “saw” in verse 6 is the Greek word *theoreo*. We get our English word theorize from this term. In addition to what Mary saw, Peter made an additional discovery:

- Discovery of the S_____

3. LOOK OF _____ (vv 8-10)

The word translated “saw” in verse 8 is the Greek word *horao*. It means “to perceive with understanding.”

Mary bows her head and weeps; Peter scratches his head and wonders; but John lifts his head and worships.

How would you have responded? It all depends on how you see the resurrection. The risen, living Christ offers you eternal life by placing your trust alone in Him alone for the forgiveness of your sins. This is the message of Easter!

E2 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



April 21 - April 25

INTRODUCTION:
Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:
Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message from, April 20th, “Resurrection of Jesus”, with Pastor Doug Lyon . Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on April 27th, “The First Seven Words of the Risen Savior”, with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:
My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
John 15:12