

SERMON - EASTER SUNDAY - 23 MARCH 2008
St. John's Anglican Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

Col. 3:1 (KJV)

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

We are gathered here today to celebrate what has been called the “Queen of Feasts”, the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are here to celebrate the one event in the history of mankind that separates us as Christians from any other religion or faith in the entire universe, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are here to celebrate that one event that gives us all the hope of our own resurrection, the hope of our own eternal life.

Saint Paul wrote to the faithful at Rome, ***Romans 6:4-5 (KJV)*** *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

We have now finished our Lenten journey. We have walked through the valley and the gloom of Good Friday into the glorious light of Easter Morning. We have grieved as our Savior died on the Cross and was buried in the Tomb. We have wept as we watched as His Blessed Mother received his lifeless body. We have perhaps even run away from this sight in fear and despair.

But today we have come with the women to the tomb, the empty tomb.
Death could not hold our Lord.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

But we hear those that say there is no need to believe in the physical Resurrection. That this is just a metaphor, a myth, that there is no need to believe this event in order to be a Christian.

To quote Saint Paul again, *1 Cor. 15:12-14 (KJV) Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: ¹⁴And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*

Without the Resurrection, our faith is in vain. Without the Resurrection there would be no Christian faith. Without the Resurrection you and I would have no hope of eternal life.

The Resurrection is the central event, the lynchpin, the keystone, or whatever you may want to describe it as, to us being Christians.

2 Cor. 4:14 (KJV) Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.

We have the promise, we have the promise that He who raised Jesus from the dead will raise us up also.

If

If, we have also been buried with him in baptism. If we have let our old self die and have taken on the new life, the eternal life that God has offered us, offered us freely.

If we have taken on the new life that our Lord Jesus paid for on the Cross of Calvary.

Again let us hear the words of Paul, *Galatians 2:20 (KJV) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Today, let us live in the light of Easter, in the light of the Resurrection of our Lord. Let us bask in the light that He has restored for us by His death and Resurrection.

The Light of Eternal Life.

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Amen.