

# GPS: Grow—Pray—Study - Sunday, April 20, 2014

## “EASTER SUNDAY”

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Today the church celebrates Easter Sunday, which we recognize as the most significant day of the Christian calendar. Easter is a holiday associated with colored eggs and chocolate bunnies, but it is not about eggs or chocolate. It is a time to enjoy the warm weather and think about Earth’s natural renewal, but it is not about flowers and springtime. Today we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

We also conclude our sermon series drawn from Adam Hamilton’s “*24 Hours That Changed the World*.” We see Jesus of Nazareth not as a helpless victim of the violence and persecution that He endured over the 24 hours that changed the world, but as Christ, the victor over sin and death.

It is a feast day, full of celebration. He is Risen!

The Scriptural basis for today’s sermon is Mark 16:1-6.

*When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”*

*But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.*

*“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”*

Sermon Notes

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## REFLECTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

**MONDAY** “All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.”  
- *Psalms 98:3*

- We know the end of the story: God wins. Persevere in your struggles today, as one with confidence in victory.

**TUESDAY** “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”  
- *1 Corinthians 15:55*

- Elias Chacour, an archbishop in Israel, notes the problem of touring the Holy Sepulcher, the tomb of Christ. These pilgrims seek the Lord in the one place we know He will not be found! Find Jesus where He is today, near you in your life.

**WEDNESDAY** “It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.” - *Luke 24:10-11*

- Christ’s truth has never been credible in the eyes of the world. Tell it anyway.

**THURSDAY** “They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.” - *Luke 24:14-16*

- Don’t get so hung up on talking about Jesus that you miss Him.

**FRIDAY** “When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.” - *Luke 24:30-31*

- Christ shared bread to be with us, even after He ascended into heaven. Think about sharing bread as a communion server or some other fashion.

**SATURDAY** “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?’” - *John 11:25-26*

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord’s resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.