



He is not here, but is Risen!

The Gospel of Jesus Christ, Resurrection Sunday

April 5, 2026

Holy Text: Luke 24:1-12

Happy Resurrection Sunday! Jesus Christ is Alive! He is Risen! As He Himself testified in the book of Revelation:

***Revelation 1:18 (KJV)** I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Yes CRC, Jesus is Alive! And because of His perfect life, death, and Resurrection...

***Hebrews 7:25 (KJV)**he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

Hallelujah!

Context:

1. Much has happened since our LORD triumphantly entered Jerusalem (Palm Sunday):
 - Upon entry, our LORD went and cleansed the temple, many say for a second time. (Lk 19:45-48)
 - He got into much conflict with chief priests, scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees over many issues (His authority, taxes, the resurrection, etc.) (Luke 20)
 - He delivered the Olivet Discourse, where among other things, He taught that the Kingdom would be taken from His religious persecutors, pronounced seven woes upon them (Matt 23), and predicted the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem. (Lk 21:20-24)
 - His enemies plotted against Him (Lk 22:1-2), one of His own betrayed Him (Lk 22:3-6), He instituted the LORD's Supper with His disciples at the Passover (Lk 22:7-23), suffered greatly in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt 26:36-46), and was denied and abandoned by Peter and the disciples. (Mk 14:43-50; Lk 22:54-62)
2. He was arrested and taken before the council of religious leaders, Herod, and Pilate. (Lk 22:63-23:1-16)
3. He was mocked, struck (Lk 22:63-66), humiliated and abandoned by the crowds ("Give us Barabbas; Let Him be crucified!"). He was stripped, flogged, mockingly dressed in purple and a painful crown of thorns, and crucified. (Matt 27:15-31)
4. For six long hours, He suffered on the cross for our sins! (From the 3rd hour [Mark 15:25], to the 9th hour, [Mark 15:34]).
5. Then He was taken down from the cross and buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (Matt 27:57-61). He was there for three days (Matt 27:63...late on Friday [part of day one] through all of Saturday [day two] until His resurrection early on Sunday morning [day three], according to first-century Jewish reckoning where any part of a day counted as a whole day).

Some Thoughts from our Text:

1. The "first day of the week" is Sunday. (v.1a)
 - This is why the "Christian Sabbath" was moved from Saturday to Sunday.

Acts 20:7 (KJV) And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

1 Corinthians 16:1-3 (KJV) Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. **2** Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. **3** And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.

- Scripture calls it “The LORD’s Day.”

Revelation 1:10-11 (KJV) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, **11** Saying, *I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*

2. The “they” here are some of the women who followed our LORD (v.1b, see v.10). Far from viewing women as lower or deafening them, Christianity reveres and lifts up women. The prevalence of women in our LORD’s ministry proves the point! This truth does not overthrow God’s commands for His daughters! Indeed, this is why we can unashamedly hold fast to commands for God’s daughters! (Eph 5, 1 Tim 2, 1 Cor 11/14, etc.) They are given out of love!
3. In verses 2-3, the women found the stone rolled away and the body of our LORD gone! Praise God!
4. They were perplexed! The stone was “very great” (Mk 16:4) and likely require several men to move it. (v.4)
5. The “men in shining garments” were angels! They affirmed that Jesus is alive! (v.5)
6. Indeed, they said, “He is not here, but is risen” (v.6) and encouraged the women to remember the LORD’s own words! (v. 7; Luke 9:22, 44)
7. Beloved, like the women remembered and were moved to action, may we encourage you to remember our LORD’s Words! Everything He said is true!
 - He said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Believe Him! (Matt 11:28)
 - He said “He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” Believe Him! (John 5:24)
 - He said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” Believe Him! (John 14:27)
 - He said, “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.” (John 11:25-26) Believe Him!
 - He said, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)
8. Tell somebody (vv.9-10 and trust God to confirm His Word! (vv.11-12)

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (KJV) *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

A Question that needs to be asked: Why did Jesus come in the first place?

1. The short answer: because God is holy and we are sinners desperately in need of a Savior. His Name means Savior! (Mat 1:21)
2. A much needed longer answer...
 - After succumbing to the tempting of the devil, Adam and Eve fell into a life of sin terminated by death. (Genesis 3)
 - But even then, God had a redemptive plan! (Gen 3:15)
 - This plan required God choosing a people for Himself, from which would come His Messiah. (Genesis 12)
 - This people were shown God's holy character through His Laws, summarized by *The 10 Commandments*. (Exodus 20)
 - It was impossible for this people (Israel), or anyone else to perfectly keep the Law. (James 2:10)
 - Therefore One who could, One who was and is without sin, was needed! (Hebrews 4:15)
 - And this One couldn't just be a man; He had to be God so His sacrifice could be laid to the account of not just Himself....but many! (Philippians 2:6-11)
 - Because of His holiness and perfect justice, God must punish ALL sin. (Isa 13:11; Rom 6:23)
 - Sin is defined as "lawlessness" or "transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). *"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law."* (1 Cor 15:56)
 - Jesus, the perfect keeper of the Law and our High Priest, took the punishment and wrath (the Father's holy and just anger) for sin upon Himself on the cross. (1 Cor, 15:3; Heb 2:17; 1 John 4:10)
 - Therefore, only Christ can save. There is salvation in NO OTHER NAME. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)! ☺
 - **AND.....His Resurrection seals and ratifies His sacrifice! It proves both the validity of His mission and His deity! All other "religious leaders" are dead. Jesus is ALIVE!**

He is Risen!

1. Do you really believe Christ rose from the dead? Because if you do, your life should reflect the glory of that revelation as much as possible. Your priorities from the moment of that belief should be changed forever!
2. He did rise from the dead! Apologist Hank Hanegraaff offers a wonderful defense of this truth. He calls it the "**F.E.A.T.** that demonstrates the fact of the Resurrection."

Fatal Torment – People did not survive the cross!

Empy Tomb – No body was found!

Appearances – People saw Him alive! (see below)

Transformation – Through the Apostles, the whole world was turned upside down!
Would they have risked their lives for what they knew to be false?

3. Again, in our text, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James (Mark includes Salome, Mk 16:1) went to an empty tomb; they were understandably “perplexed!” Thankfully, the angels let them know that He wasn’t there but is risen!” (vv5-6) But that’s not all....
 - a. He eventually appeared to His disciples (Mark 16:12-14), and...
 - b. More than 500 others! “**1 Corinthians 15:6 (KJV)** *After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.*”
 - c. Matthew describes a magnificently chilling, post-resurrection scene:

Matthew 27:50-53 (KJV) *Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

4. He is alive! He is risen! Death is swallowed up in victory! Hallelujah!

What does His Resurrection really mean?

1. The apostle Paul wrote:

1 Corinthians 15:14-22 (KJV) *And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

2. In other words, if Christ suffered and died and stayed dead, then WE stay dead. His “staying dead” would mean Christ wasn’t who He said He was, and didn’t do what He said He would do...and Christianity crumbles. Without the Resurrection, we’d have NO SAVIOR, NO HOPE, NO TRUE JOY, and NO ETERNAL LIFE!
3. **BUT...since He got up bodily, it provided the “proof of the ages” that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and God the Son!**
 - This means His sacrifice was sufficient for all He would call and choose! (Matt 22:14)
 - This means our faith isn’t futile! We have true HOPE!
 - Like the old song says, “He rose, He rose, He rose from the dead...and the LORD shall bear my spirit home!”

- Truly, the bodily Resurrection of Jesus is our very hope to have victory over the sting of death and the grave, and to be “changed,” raised “incorruptible” and to put on “immortality!” (1 Cor 50-58)

1 Corinthians 15:57 (KJV) *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- Oh help us praise Him saints...

1 Peter 1:3-5 (KJV) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

What do I do now?

If you are already a Christian:

1. Do what the disciples did and taught...what every disciple of Jesus MUST do and teach...
 - Preach the Gospel: Mark 16:15!
 - Make disciples: Mathew 28:18-20!
 - Walk in holiness and obedience: 1 Peter 1:13-16!
 - Hate the world; live for eternity: 1 John 2:15-17.....

Colossians 3:1-6 (KJV) *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

2. And do it all “unto death” for that is the call for every true follower of Christ.

Luke 9:22-26 (KJV) *Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day. 23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? 26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.*

If you are not a Christian:

1. Repent (Remember, you have broken God's Laws.)

- **Matthew 4:17 (KJV)** From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**
- **Acts 2:38 (KJV)** Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- **Act 17:30-31 (KJV)** And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to **repent**: (31) Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
- **2 Corinthians 7:10 (KJV)** For godly sorrow worketh **repentance** to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

2. Believe the Gospel (Put your trust in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus for the forgiveness of sin)

- **John 6:40 (KJV)** And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.
- **Romans 10:9-10 (KJV)** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- **Acts 16:30-31 (KJV)** And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? **31** And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

For all believers, new and old...join and attend a local church!

1. Our LORD commands this:

Hebrews 10:25 (KJV) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.¹

2. He commands this for many reasons, not the least of which is the need for godly elders.

Hebrews 13:7 (KJV) Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.

Hebrews 13:17 (KJV) Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

3. Those who have repented and believed the Gospel WILL desire to worship God and gather with His people! (Acts 2:1-4, 2:42-47)

4. Going forward, make a sound, healthy local church a focal point of your life. Build your household around God's worship! Attend faithfully and every Sunday you can! Use your gifts! Be generous! This is God's will for all His children!

**He is Risen! Let us serve Him acceptably with reverence and godly fear! (Heb 12:28)
Amen!**

¹ <https://subsplash.com/u/calvaryreformationchurch/media/d/vb6yqw8-not-forsaking-the-assembling-pt-1>