**“He Has Risen”**

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Isaiah 25:6-9

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8

 Easter

“Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.’”

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and from our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bridge

It is to be **noted most** that **Easter began at a gravesite**. For most all of this world, **this** has been a **gravesite kind of year** so the message ought to hit home as, maybe, it’s never before. **We’ve** known a **special closeness of death**, been at too many gravesites ourselves most recently and (if not that in person) afraid of death such that it’s kept lots of us secluded in houses (this our first **semi-full gathering for Easter** in **2 years** … and yet still not full for **fear of death**).

But Easter (to that) speaks of **LIFE** **OUT OF DEATH**. **The unavoidable because of sin got BEATEN … and is-so for all who’ll admit to its cause (in our sin) and confess its Solution in the Sacrificial Savior of God’s Son, Jesus**. The **DEATH OF GOD** **yields, for confessors and believers, LIFE IN SPITE OF DEATH**, and that from the **One who’d JOINED US IN DEATH** yet **NOW LIVES providing us with hope of what He called “Paradise”, and us raised to it after our death**.

Text

Isaiah’s text (that I read) **speaks of this in beautiful and poetic language**. Mark and Paul simply **state the fact**. Now, Paul went on to speak (in the rest of His 15th chapter to the Corinthians) of also the benefits for us of Jesus’ resurrection (and we’ll speak of them too), but mostly his point is that **everything that’s really (in this world and beyond) life comes from (starts from) the resurrection of Jesus the Christ from His death**. Mark’s chapter 16 is the Easter account, but chapters 14 and 15 described **how and why** He had to die (and gave Himself up to do it). Yet death **couldn’t hold Him**. And it won’t hold us because I want you to hear that, later in that same chapter) Paul called Him the “**firstfruit**” of all **raised**. And **joined to His death and resurrection by Baptism** (as Paul said in Romans 6 that “don’t you know that we who have been baptized **have been baptized into Jesus’ death**? We **were** **buried with Him by baptism into His death**, **IN ORDER THAT**” (and here’s where we’re even individually gifted the life that comes from Jesus’ death and resurrection) “just as Christ was **raised from the dead by the glory of the Father**” (**and it’s Easter, He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**) “**we too might walk in newness of life” (live and be / walk in ta resurrected life with an eternal promise)**. “**For if we have united with Him in a death like His” (baptism-into-it, remember), “we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His” … and “He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia”**. What Paul called “the **THING OF FIRST IMPORTANCE**” is this thing that, this year in greater number, I’ve reminded people of gathered at gracesites (that I and you all can, with Job, “know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last **I shall see Him with my own eyes after my skin has been destroyed**”).

**THE** **NEWS THAT PAUL CALLS “OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”** is **THIS (so listen up)**: “that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with Scriptures**, that He **was buried**, that **He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures**, and that **He appeared** that way (raised from the dead) to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then **He appeared** that way (raised from the dead) to more than five hundred brothers at one time. Then **He appeared** that way (raised from the dead) to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all **He appeared that way (raised from the dead)** **also to me**.” Mark says that the two women who had (from the previous chapter, upon Jesus’ death) followed the buriers of Jesus’ body to the gravesite, where He was then buried, determined to return after the Sabbath and further prepare His body: “Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint the Lord’s body. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, **they went to the tomb**. And they were saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?’ And, looking up, saw that the heavy stone that **had covered it** **had been rolled back—it was very large**. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, ‘**Do not be alarmed**. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who **was crucified**. He **HAS RISEN**; He **is not hear**. **See the place for yourself where they laid Him**. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that **He is going before you to Galilee. There** **you will see Him, just as He told you**.’ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, **(yet)**, for they were afraid.” ….

Application

This is only **wonderfully Good News** (the **best that this world could ever hear**), and yet **foolish and futile if not true**. Later in 1st Corinthians 15 Paul admitted that “if Christ has not been raised, **faith is futile, and we’re all, then, still in our sins. And those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished**”, therefore a gravesite would be darkness and places of despair …

… “**but**” Paul continued “**in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruit of those falling asleep but belonging to Him … so raised like Him**”. And Isaiah took it to **new heights in words**: “Jesus (in His death and resurrection) swallowed-up the covering that had been cast over all people (sin’s possession of us), the veil spread over all nations swallowed-up.” And “God will **wipe away tears from faces**, the **shame f His people the Lord God (for the sake of the bloodshed of His Son, Jesus) would take away in forgiveness**”.

That’s glorious News … with just one response making sense: **BELIEVE IT (RECEIVED IT)** and **REJOICE OVER IT**. “Behold, this **is our God**” (Isaiah gives us the words to say); “**WE have waited for Him, that He might save US**. This **is** the Lord; **WE have waited for Him; let US** **be** **glad and rejoice in His salvation**.” ….

**Since He is risen**, (“reigning but unseen yet to be received by faith until every eye shall behold Him until He’s put all of His enemies under His feet, the last being death itself, **raising those who are His as promised**, **WE wait for Him with gladness and joy. “HE HAS RISEN! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**”

Thanks be to God, in +Jesus’ name, Amen.