

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

(541) 884-1635 www.lutherankf.org

April 2022

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. (1 Peter 1:3-6)

Many people can relate to suffering, grief, and trials – from the one who has been abused, to the one who has lost everything to disaster, to the one who has been diagnosed with serious illness, to the one who has lost a loved one...

Grieving over what we have suffered or lost may continue for years or for life. Counselors compare helping those who grieve to peeling back layers of an onion—processing deeply buried feelings, learning to cope and move forward in hope. One of the most valuable things for those who grieve is to have a listening friend.

The above passage from Scripture tells of the "living hope" God gives. It even says we can come to rejoice in the midst of life's troubles. How can this be?

We have a Friend who is always near and listening. He really understands, for He was a "Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3). And more than just an understanding Friend, He is our almighty Savior. He is God's Son, who came to bring us the ultimate healing for our grief. He gives us the hope of life beyond our present troubles, the hope of better things to come in heaven's eternal joys.

Much of our life in this world is affected by the results of sin. We are grieving for paradise lost. Due to mankind's fall into sin, things are not as they should be. We feel the loss of a perfect relationship with God and each other. We feel the loss of innocence and a burden of guilt. We feel the loss of what is good through suffering and death.

But God's Son came to heal and to restore all that was lost. He took our sin and guilt to the cross to remove that burden from us. He rose from the grave in power to declare us forgiven, reconciled to God. He lives to give us victory over death in "an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Even when we are "grieved by various trials," we can rejoice in our living hope. Our life is in good hands. As a hurt child finds comfort in the loving arms of a parent, we can rest in our heavenly Father's loving arms. Nothing can separate us from His love in Christ – no suffering or grief, not even death (Romans 8:35-39). He is working all things for our good. And finally, He will fill our hearts with eternal joys beyond compare.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

In His living hope,
Pastor Smith



4 Questions about Jesus to Answer This Easter

April 2022

1. Did Jesus really exist?

Some people claim that Jesus never existed. They say He was just a legend or a myth. That sort of broad denial really doesn't make sense. People might try to dismiss the entire Bible as just a book of old myths, but in fact the same ancient historians who tell us about the Roman emperors also mention Jesus. So, anyone who thinks Julius Caesar was real should admit that Jesus was real, too.

2. Was Jesus really crucified?

According to the Bible, Jesus was crucified under the Roman governor Pontius Pilate. All four of the Gospels say so. Several of the epistles in the New Testament refer back to the same event. In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah foretold that Jesus would suffer a gruesome death. (Isaiah 53)

Again, even people who wish to dismiss the Bible as a fairy tale still have every reason to accept the fact that Jesus was crucified. Archaeologists have found an inscription bearing the name "Pontius Pilate" and dating to the first century. The Jewish historian Josephus, writing in A.D. 93, stated that Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate. The Roman historian Tacitus, writing in A.D. 116, said the same thing. Although these two writers were neither Christians nor supporters of Christians, they both agreed that Jesus really died.

3. Did Jesus also rise from the dead?

As for what happened after Jesus died, the Bible and other ancient records point in the same direction: toward an empty tomb and eyewitness testimony that Jesus had been observed alive after He died on the cross.

Josephus and the Roman historians did not necessarily themselves believe that Jesus had risen from the dead, but they did acknowledge that something unusual had occurred, with Josephus suggesting that eyewitness reports of the resurrection had stirred up quite a lot of controversy.

The Bible reports that Jesus came back to life, appearing to over 500 people in a forty-day span. (1 Corinthians 15:3–8) He was not merely a vision that they had, or a disembodied ghost haunting the earth.

Rather, He spoke with them, He cooked for them, He ate with them, and they saw and heard and even touched Him. (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20–21, Acts 1)

A Jewish leader named Paul, who at first persecuted the Christians, later saw Jesus and had a complete change of life. (Acts 9) Paul became the leading Christian missionary in the Roman empire and wrote about half the New Testament! So convinced was Paul that Jesus truly had risen from the dead, he would ultimately suffer a martyr's death rather than renounce his faith. The same was true for many others in the early church.

4. What difference does the resurrection of Jesus make for me?

Knowing the fact of the resurrection is one thing, but the Christian faith is above all about *trusting* in Jesus. Through faith, a believer relies upon Jesus. To be a Christian means to rely upon Jesus, to trust in Jesus, for one's deepest need.

What is that need? Forgiveness from God. Reconciliation with the One who made us. Our hearts have turned against God. Our thoughts and our actions have failed to love our neighbor, and also failed to love God. For these sins, we deserve death—not just death of the body, but an eternal death beyond the grave, in hell.

The reason Jesus lived was so that He could live in your place—loving God the Father and loving His neighbors perfectly.

The reason Jesus died was so that He could die in your place—suffering the punishment that you deserve so that you don't have to suffer it.

The reason Jesus rose was so that you, too, may have eternal life with Him.

That's what Easter is about. It's a fact that Jesus loves you. In faith, cling to Him.

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Learn More:
www.els.org/apologetics

April 2022 Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> <p>Welcome!</p> <p><u>Easter Sunday – April 17th</u> Sunrise Service at 8:30 am, followed by brunch</p> <p><i>“Because I live, you will live also” (John 14:19)</i></p> </div> </div>					1	2 <i>Happy Birthday Eric Anderson</i>
<p>3 <i>Lent 5</i></p> <p>Worship with Communion 9:30 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM</p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:30 PM</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Maria Smith</i></p>	4	5	<p>6</p>  <p>Midweek Lent 6 Service – 4:30 PM</p>	7	8	9
<p>10 <i>Palm Sunday</i></p> <p>Worship with Communion 9:30 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM</p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:30 PM</p>	11	12	13	<p>14</p>  <p>Maundy Thursday Service – 4:30 PM</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Good Friday Service – 4:30 PM</p>	16
<p>17 <i>Easter Sunday</i></p> <p>Easter Sunrise Service 8:30 AM</p> <p>Easter Brunch 9:30 AM</p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:30 PM</p>	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>24 <i>Easter 2</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM</p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:30 PM</p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Happy Anniversary Bill & Ana Jay</i></p>	26	27	<p>28</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p>West Coast Pastors Conference Hillsboro, OR</p> </div>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

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