

# Easter Series: The Resurrection of Jesus: He Is Risen!

## John 20:1-16



*John 20:1-16 Now on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. 2 So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken*

*away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." 3 So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. 4. And the two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; 5 and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. 6 And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but folded up in a place by itself. 8 So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. 9 For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. 10 So the disciples went away again to where they were staying. 11 But Mary was standing outside the tomb crying; and so, as she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb; 12 and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. 13 And they said to her, "Women, why are you crying?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Whom are you seeking? Thinking Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher).*

At Easter, the Church celebrates and remembers two things: the crucifixion and the resurrection. In His death, Jesus finished everything God requires for mankind to be reconciled to Himself. In His resurrection, Jesus gives to every generation two precious gifts: a proof for us, and a sign to us.

**1) The Resurrection is a Proof to Mankind.** Paul describes the resurrection as God's proof to the world that Jesus has been appointed to save the lost and judge the dead. In His life, Jesus claimed to be God, promised to give eternal life to all who believe, and to raise each of us on the last day. Had Jesus stayed in the grave, the world would be doubtful that Jesus was who He said and could do what He said He would do. Paul says that without the resurrection, this doubt would render our faith worthless. But thanks be to God that Jesus did not stay in the grave, but He has risen and He lives. The resurrection removes all doubt concerning Jesus and stands as living proof to every generation that Christ's claims are trustworthy.

**2) The Resurrection is a Sign to Christians.** Paul also describes the resurrection as an example that signals what is to come in the future. Jesus was not raised as a one time demonstration of God's power, rather, as the first of many. He is the "first fruit". That means there are many more that will rise just like He did. The resurrection is our living hope, a full assurance of what is to come, guaranteed by a living God. Every Christian will pass from death to eternal life and it is in the resurrection of Jesus that God has given His sign for every generation.

It is at Easter, more than any other time, that the Church rejoices in the power and hope in just three words: He is risen! And it is upon these words that we can have all confidence, place full trust, and rest hopefully knowing that someday we will be just like Jesus; risen to eternal life in His name.