Happy Resurrection Day! What a blessed morning! The tomb is empty. Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed!

 In our Gospel reading in Luke, some women arrive at the tomb with prepared spices for the preservation of the body of Jesus. When they arrive, they find the stone rolled away. In Mark 16, we find that they were wondering who would roll the stone away for them. OH! But God! They encounter angels who make the beautiful proclamation:

5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

6 “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.

What a morning! The angels spoke this proclamation that changed their hearts, their minds, their future and the world. The angels’ words cause them to recall what Jesus had told them. During this season of Lent, God has been calling to us to look again at the events of the season, to behold with fresh and new understanding the plan that makes our salvation possible. The angels’ words cause us to look again at the impact of an empty tomb. And we are not motivated simply by curiosity or passing interest. No, we are motivated with ready hearts to experience more, to devote more.

JESUS IS ALIVE! What does this truth mean for us? For you and me? What does it mean for humanity? In John 11:25-26, Jesus declares, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Family, the resurrection is a truth not a concept. It is the foundation for the assurance of our faith and the security of our eternal salvation. Look at the documented proof that He was raised in body: John 20:27 points to His scars; John 20:12 records that He ate a meal; Acts 1:9 recounts to us that He ascended—yes, resurrection is a truth, not merely a concept. Moreover, the resurrection is not merely an important event in history. Without the resurrection, there is no hope. It is the singular doctrine that elevates Christianity above every other religion. Jesus is alive is the gospel of Easter. And because of that, our hope of salvation is secure. We behold the LAMB OF GOD who takes away the sin of the world!

The resurrection of Jesus is our living hope, a hope that should be celebrated more than once a year. Lee Strobel wrote in *The* *Case for Christ*, “Every single shred of evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is also evidence for my eventual resurrection.” We should hold fast to the resurrection, to His Word, and the hope we have in them. Our hope being

found in Jesus means our lives revolve around Him, not the other way around. There should be evidence of the resurrection in our own lives. Jesus is alive and can be trusted; Paul says in Galatians 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Because of the resurrection, our souls will be satisfied. But only in Jesus will we find that satisfaction: HE is the life.

Back over in Luke, the angels ask a profound question that is relevant today: “In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead?’” (v. 5). Your pastor spent many years seeking life in dead things. But, family, listen. There is salvation in no one or nothing else. We can’t save ourselves, nor can our good deeds, our friends, our family, our money or our earthly success save us. It doesn’t matter how big your home is or how talented you are. There is no life found in addiction or in victimhood. ONLY in Jesus is there life. We will never find the living among the dead. Through confession of sin, repentance, and faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross and His victory over death, hell, and the grave, we find life (Colossians 2:13-15\*). He defeated death and made a public spectacle of it: “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification”(Romans 4:25).

The grave could not hold Jesus. He defeated it from the inside out.

 Family, the resurrection secured our place in Heaven for eternity, if we repent and believe. Because of what He has done and who He is, we have access to the throne now; that is, access to life and life abundant. Because of the resurrection, we have life and hope. We live in a world of moral poverty, in the midst of wars and rumors of wars. People are frustrated and frightened, in desperate need of answers. Well, here is THE answer: JESUS!

The power in the resurrection is Death defeated! Christian, here’s more good news for you: Our God has “incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right

hand in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 1:19-20\*). The surpassing greatness of the Son of God’s power is alive and well. Our King is alive and well in the fullness of His authority.

Christian, walk in the assurance of that truth, victorious! If you are here today never having accepted Jesus as Savior and King, first of all, we are glad you are here. Thank you for being here. But, I plead with you to accept Jesus’ free offer of salvation through repentance, secure in your eternity. Don’t miss Heaven! Don’t miss this opportunity! Now, as we close, Family, remember, Jesus is alive tomorrow, too. Act like it! Recalling verse 8 of Luke 24,

remember! Remember His words! Christ is Risen. He is the resurrection and the life. He is Risen, indeed! Let’s go share this life with a dying world.

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\*Colossians 2:13-15

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

*Passages in support of this sermon*:

1 Peter 1:3-4

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you

Luke 24:1-12

1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.

2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.

5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?

6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:

7 ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ”

8 Then they remembered his words.

9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.

10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.

11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.