

Easter  
“Jesus’ Personal Passion Prophecies Assure His  
Resurrection Victory over death”

Mark 14:26-28

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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this Easter Day is from Jesus’ personal prophecy recorded in Mark 14:26-28.

**“26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.27 Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:**

**‘I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’**

**28 “But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”**

So far our text:

When we last gathered on Good Friday, we were hearing the full account of the harmony of the Gospels of the passion, death and burial of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Each of His prophecies came true. Each was fulfilled and His dead body was carried to the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, hastily covered with burial spices and cloth and sealed in the tomb.

Yes, a few verses before our text in this chapter of Mark 14, we heard how Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, had shown her great love and gratitude to Jesus by anointing His head and feet with a costly perfume. Jesus tells all that this was a pre-burial anointing six days before His death.

And now still in chapter 14, for Mark quickly takes us to the upper room for the Passover meal and we hear Jesus institute Holy Communion, and then they go out to the Mount of Olives to pray.

It is here that Jesus once more plainly quotes Scripture from Zechariah 13 that the Shepherd will be struck down and the sheep will be scattered. Jesus quotes His Father

speaking this prophecy. “I will strike the Shepherd”. God does the striking. It is His divine plan that God requires the death of His Son. His holiness and righteousness demands that the Substitute for all mankind would suffer the stripes for all people.

**“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion,” Says the Lord of hosts. “Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered;”**

We hear the Lord of hosts speak in Zechariah 13. He speaks against the Man, (capital “M” in Man) for the Father speaks of the God Man, Jesus, His Companion, the second person of the Trinity. The Father must allow His Son, His Shepherd of the sheep, to be killed by the Sword.

Why? It’s pretty glaringly obvious. The sheep have stumbled. The sheep have not followed their Shepherd, but sinned by following their own lustful ways. Yes, stumbling isn’t a physical falling down here, but a spiritual falling away.

And God does not want His sheep to be eternally lost and separated from Him. So He does the only thing that can save them – He strikes the Shepherd and the Shepherd pays for the sins of the world.

So we know the passage well from Isaiah 53, don’t we?

**“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;  
Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.  
5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.  
6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;  
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”**

Good Friday must always be at the forefront of the Christian faith before we can then hear the cheerful words of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in our text.

**“But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”**

He willingly laid down His life for the sheep, for you and me. And then tells us that there is a most joyous day still yet to come. Jesus prophecies of His resurrection! He doesn’t stay dead because He has completely fulfilled the Law’s demands and now He is to be

exalted for His great work of salvation! Jesus will rise victorious! And He will be seen by His disciples again in Galilee.

Our Gospel reading in Matthew 28, includes these very words by the angel that he spoke to the women who came early in the morning expecting to anoint a dead body.

**“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”**

Death does not win over Jesus. Jesus owns death. He defeats it! ...just like He prophesied He would do! What amazing trust Jesus, the Man, God’s Companion, has that though He will be utterly struck down, He absolutely commends Himself to His Father that His Father will raise Him from the dead.

Look at the complete opposites of which Jesus speaks of in our text. You will all stumble. I will be raised. All the sheep go astray and spiritually stumble in sin, including you and me. Yet, this grave offense, this scandal, as the Greek calls it, has no bearing on Jesus’ resurrection. Our sin does not keep Jesus in the grave for He carried them all, once and for all.

Will you also rise again? Will you be resurrected? We may think in our sinful minds, if I stumble less, and follow Jesus more, then I maybe I will be included with those who will rise from the dead. No! Our works do not save us! Only the work of Jesus saves. By grace alone we are saved. And by grace alone we will be raised through faith in Jesus. Faith alone in what He has done for us, sheep!

No sooner had Jesus said that He will rise again, than Peter quickly tries to boast that he is strong and will not stumble.

**“29 Peter said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be.”  
30 Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” 31 But he spoke more vehemently, “If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And they all said likewise.”**

I think we need to include ourselves in that “all”, don’t you agree? We think we will not deny our Lord, and yet we have time and again done so.

But Jesus resurrection isn’t dependent on our “not stumbling” but on Jesus “not stumbling”. And He never did. He never sinned, never gave into temptation and because of His great work, we are saved. 100% Jesus.

What does the angel tell the women to do in Mark 16 when they come to the empty tomb.

**“Mark 16:7**

**But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”**

As He said. Jesus died for Peter’s sins and our sins, as He said He would. He rose again for Peter and for all of us so that we need not fear death. Our resurrection is guaranteed by the One who conquered death! God’s Companion, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Listen again to the absolute confidence Paul speaks to us believers about our resurrection in our epistle reading from Colossians 3.

**“1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”**

Paul says it’s a done deal. You have been already raised with Christ as His believing sheep. Your resurrection was given to you in your baptism when you died to sin and a new life was begun with Christ. Hidden now, not completely visible, but just wait. When Christ who is our life, appears, you will appear where? With Him in glory!

So says our God in Isaiah 53: **“When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.”**

You and me and all believers, Jesus will see, His seed, the labor of His soul. Oh what pleasure it is for Jesus to rescue us and raise us anew. What satisfaction!

Blessed Easter! Jesus is risen! And so are you! Even now! All glory to God the Father, His Companion and our Good Shepherd, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit who gives us all these assurances through faith His word. Amen!

**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)**