

SERMON FOR EASTER 2022

APRIL 17, 2022

TEXT: LUKE 24:6-9

THEME: REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION!

He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, **7** that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” **8** And they remembered his words, **9** and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Many of us have heard the expression "remember the Alamo." It's most often used as a battle cry -- it is a way to convey strength and honor in three short and simple words. Yes, the Alamo was a real fort in a real city called San Antonio Texas. And there was a bloody battle that took place on that site. But there have been other battles that have been found in our country, on sites such at Gettysburg or Bunker Hill. So what makes the Alamo so special?

The Alamo was originally built as a Catholic mission, with the purpose of converting the Indian tribes living near San Antonio. The former mission town had been converted into a fort, and there were soldiers, insurgents, who were trapped inside without reinforcements. Some of the men were Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett, as well as men from Denmark, Ireland, Scotland, and England. These men came to America and migrated to Texas. These were fighting men,

numbering 200 in all, all within the walls of the fort called the Alamo. They fought for freedom. And in that fight they died.

On March 6 the Mexican army stormed the Alamo. Women, children, and slaves were there were taken from the fort, along with six captured rebels. General Santa Ana commanded that the rebel fighters be put to death. The rebel fighters refused to surrender. Their lives ended in death.

The refusal of the people at the Alamo to surrender served to inspire other rebels to continue to fight for their freedom. And so the phrase “Remember the Alamo” became a rallying cry for the rebel forces to fuel them onto victory. And who were these people who fought valiantly at the Alamo? They were common, ordinary citizens who lived in a time when people were anxious and afraid.

In our text for today, we read that the angel proclaimed: “He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, **7** that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” **8** And they (the women) remembered his words, **9** and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Those at the first Easter heard the Good News of the Resurrection,

and they were told to go, to REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION, and to tell others this Good News.

But why were they told to REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION? The angel tells them to remember what Jesus said, of how He prepared His followers of what was to come, that “it was necessary that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.” (Mt. 16). Jesus reminded them that all of the Old Testament pointed to Jesus who came to be the One who was the Savior of the world. Jesus said that all of the Scripture, that is the Old Testament at that time, spoke of and revealed Him to be the Savior. The prophets foretold that the Savior would be born of a virgin, that He would come from the line of David, and that He would be the Lamb of God that would take away the sins of the world. Remember what Jesus said, what He foretold, what He promised, that He would suffer, die and on the third day rise again from the grave. To REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION is to recall the promises of God, to Abraham, Issac, and Jacob, and to remember the proclamation of Job who exclaimed: I know that my Redeemer lives!

The women went forth from the open tomb and lived their lives REMEMBERING THE RESURRECTION. The women remembered by telling

the disciples, and then others that Christ had risen from the grave, just as He said He would. REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION wasn't a slogan, a fancy catch phrase or a marketing ploy. REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION wasn't just words. For those who heard the Good News of Christ's resurrection, they recognized and realized that it was real, and this reality changed the way they lived.

These believers weren't famous or influential. The resurrection news was first delivered to women, a group of people who had no status, privilege or power. They were looked down upon by many in the society at that time. The women went and told the disciples, common, everyday working class people, not highly educated nor respected, they were fishermen, a tax collector, people who were viewed as a lower class of society.

Yet Jesus used this bunch of rag tag believers to change the world. It is just as the Apostle Paul wrote: consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. **27** But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; **28** God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, **29** so that no human being might boast in the

presence of God. **30** And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, **31** so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” And that is exactly what they did, they boasted in the Lord. They professed their faith and they lived their faith, faith in a Savior who was not dead but is alive, that He has risen from the grave.

These believers in Jesus REMEMBERED THE RESURRECTION by recognizing the power of the living Christ and then following Jesus in their lives. Luke records in the Book of Acts what type of lives these early Christians lived: “ they devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.” To put it another way, their lives revolved around Jesus, the Word of God, going to Church to receive forgiveness and strength, they regularly went to the Lord’s Supper, and they prayed fervently to the Lord of the Church for the needs of the Church.

You and I are to REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION as well. To remember the resurrection doesn’t mean to just set aside one day a year, such as today, Easter, when we remember that Jesus rose from the grave and celebrate that event. To REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION means recognize and realize the reality that Jesus is alive today, and then live by the power of

Jesus' resurrection daily. Living this Good News, sharing the message of Jesus' victory over sin, Satan, and death everyday of our lives. It is to live as those first disciples lived, having our lives centered in Jesus, for in Him we live, move, and have our being. It is to realize and give thanks that if it were not for the resurrection, we would be lost in our sins and doomed to an eternal fate in Hell.

Christ has risen from the grave, just as He said He would. And because Christ has been raised from the grave, you will rise as well. It is just as Paul writes: **20** But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

To REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION means that we live today as resurrected people. People who belong to Jesus. In your Baptism Jesus placed the mark of the cross on your forehead and on your heart to mark you as one who belongs to Him. So now you are called to live as people who believe in the resurrection by living like resurrected people, like people who belong to Jesus. Daily we die to sin by confessing our sin and repenting of sin, so that we can arise as new people, living our lives not for our sinful self and desires, but living for the glory of God, seeking to show and share the love of Christ with all around us. Living as the Apostle Paul lived, who lived by the

motto for me to live is Christ and to die is gain. Living our lives centered and rooted in Jesus, not living in fear but in faith. Knowing that because of the resurrection "Death is swallowed up in victory, so that now we live our lives giving thanks to God in all we do, for He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen