



## Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022 "Resurrection Faith and Hope"

**SCRIPTURE: Revelation 21:1-8** <sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." <sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. <sup>8</sup> But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

### Introduction: In death and despair

Dear brothers and sisters! Easter morning! Let us greet each other "Happy Easter". May the peace of the Lord fill your body, mind and soul. But is there the joy of the resurrection in your hearts who are sitting here now? Or do you have various worries and anxieties in your heart?

There are times in my ministry when I feel discouraged and skeptical about life. There are many reasons why I have such thoughts. The first is when I am not filled with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. In this case, my heart is filled with complaints and worries rather than thanks and praise. The second is when Christian-like changes are not seen in the lives of the saints. In this case, I feel skeptical about the ministry. Finally, it is a time when I often face our neighbors under death and despair. It is my mission to take care of the saints entrusted to me. But it is always difficult to face the death and suffering of the saints. Nevertheless, I can continue this ministry because I can find hope in the Lord's love for the cross and the resurrection of Jesus.

Easter morning! I pray that the resurrection faith will give hope to the people of Ukraine who are in a place of death, disease, fear, despair and sorrow. Furthermore, I pray that all wars, terrorism, and human rights oppression in this world will disappear. Lord have mercy on us!

Easter morning! I pray that the resurrection faith will be a hope for all those who suffer and are angry in poverty and social discrimination. Lord have mercy on us.

Easter morning! I pray that the resurrection faith will be the hope for all those who are enjoying many things but do not enjoy the true peace that the Lord gives. Lord have mercy on us.

Easter morning! Finally, I pray that we, the church, the body of Jesus Christ, the head, can confidently proclaim the joy and hope of the resurrection to the world.

Even if we live in the presence of death and suffering, I hope that we will enjoy peace and comfort through the hope given to us through the resurrection faith.



## Body: Resurrection Faith and Hope

Today's text is a beautiful description of the world to come in the vision the Apostle John saw on the island of Patmos. It is the image of God's people living in the new heaven and new earth without death, pain, or tears. There will be no destruction and no hurt, and the world will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

But despite the Bible's promises of a new heaven and a new earth, all we humans have a fear of death. But the resurrection of Jesus Christ frees us from the state of fear of death. That is why the writer of Hebrews says that the coming of Jesus Christ is to set free all those who are in bondage for the rest of their lives for fear of death (Hebrews 2:15).

Also, the Bible compares life on this earth to a mist that appears briefly and then disappears. As the Bible says, our lives are literally moments. But the Bible says that life after death is eternal forever. That is why Jesus also speaks in the Gospel of John. **“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.” (John 5:24).**

This verse says that those who believe the words of Jesus have eternal life and will not come into judgment. Because the moment we believe in the cross and resurrection of Jesus, we are transferred from death to life. The Lord does not seek any new deeds or evidence from us before the judgment seat. Instead, He looks for evidence that we have lived by faith. Our salvation comes through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We just must believe it.

However, the problem is that people find it difficult to believe in salvation through the cross and resurrection of Christ. This thought also appears in the people of the Early Church 2000 years ago. This is described in 1 Corinthians chapter 15. 1 Corinthians chapter 15 gives a detailed explanation of the resurrection through parables. **1 Corinthians 15:35 says: “But someone may ask, ‘How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?’”**

The biggest problem with our faith is that if we can't see it, we can't believe it. But faith is not irrational, it brings us a little brighter wisdom. However, the moment we have negative thoughts, we see nothing.

In response to the above question that the Apostle Paul asks, in 1 Corinthians, let's look at the words of 1 Corinthians 15:36-38.

**“How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.” (v.36)**

**“When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else.” (v.37)**

**“But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.” (v.38)**

We know the truth that a seed that is sown does not bear fruit unless it dies in the earth. So, what we sow is to hope for and sow the future fruit. But while we are sowing seeds in the ground, there is no fruit.

The important thing here is that the Lord oversees all these processes. All these processes led by the Lord are not all explained by our common sense, judgment, and standards, so we need faith.

Like the parable in 1 Corinthians today, the resurrection is a wonderful mystery, sown in perishability and raised to life in immortality. However, this mystery of the resurrection gives us hope.

We often talk about 'hope' in our religious life. Resurrection faith is beautiful because everyone in the world thought death was the end of life but, the Lord rose from the dead. Jesus overcame the power of death. A sincere confession of this is faith. I hope you and I have this kind of faith.

## Conclusion: Let's live by resurrection faith.

Now let's summarize today's sermon. The resurrection of Jesus is a mysterious event that instills hope and confidence in the world after death. Through the resurrection of Jesus, our fear of death is gone and we have hope for a new world. And that new world is well described in today's text, Revelation 21:1-8.



In fact, we are weak and have a sinful nature. We live focused on the fleeting things of this earth rather than the hope of the kingdom of God that Jesus showed us through His resurrection. But when we depend on the Lord who raises the dead, and rejoice in the hope of the resurrection, we can live and not fall into the momentary pleasures of sin.

Even if the pain and despair of death come to us, we hope that we will win through the hope given to us through the resurrection of Jesus.

