



Sermon: Sunday, April 20, 2025

Resurrection Sunday

“Our Life as Witnesses of the Resurrection”

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:22-32 ²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ ²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ ³² “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Introduction: The Church as a Resurrection Community

Dear friends in Christ, welcome. It’s such a joy to worship with you today, especially on this Resurrection Sunday. Coming to church is not always easy. It requires intention. You’ve set aside time, perhaps pushed aside other plans, and shown up here. And that means something—it means your faith matters to you.

Now let me ask you something: What is the church like to you? A place? A building? A habit every Sunday? From a biblical perspective, the church is much more. It is an **“eschatological messianic community”**—that is, a community shaped by the hope of the end times and the reality of the risen Christ. In simpler terms, the church is a **“resurrection community.”**

The heart of the church is this: we are people who live to testify that Jesus rose from the dead. That’s the foundation. The resurrection is not a historical footnote—it is the beating heart of the Christian faith. That is why, as members of this community, our greatest call is to live as witnesses to the resurrection. This is who we are.

Body: Peter’s Sermon on Pentecost

In Acts 2, we witness one of the earliest and most powerful public declarations of the resurrection. After Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, the disciples stayed together in Jerusalem, praying and waiting. And then, on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came down powerfully. In that moment, Peter stood up and preached boldly—and today’s passage is part of that sermon.

He said, **“This man, handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, releasing him from death because it was impossible for death to hold him.”** (vv. 23-24)

Peter then turns to Scripture, quoting Psalm 16, pointing out that even David, whom the Jewish people revered, foresaw the resurrection of the Messiah: **“He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.”** (v. 31)



What does this mean? It means Jesus' resurrection was not just a return to life—it was a complete transformation into a new kind of life, a life untouched by decay, sin, or death. This is not a revival—this is a new creation. It's a kind of life we don't see in this world, but one that we are invited into through Christ.

1. The Resurrection Is Already at Work in Us

The early Christians didn't see the resurrection as something far off or theoretical. They believed it had already entered their lives. It shaped how they lived, how they made decisions, and even how they faced death.

Because of the resurrection, they were no longer chained to the law or paralyzed by fear. They believed that the new life of the resurrection had already begun—not just after death, but now. That's why Peter could say with full confidence: **“This Jesus God raised up, and we are all witnesses of it.” (v. 32)** And here, **“witness”** doesn't mean a casual observer. In the ancient world, being a witness meant being willing to testify even at great personal risk. It was a legal and moral responsibility, sometimes one that cost lives. So Peter is essentially saying, **“I will stake my entire life on the truth of Jesus' resurrection.”**

2. Living as Witnesses to the Resurrection

So how can we live as resurrection witnesses today? First, we must deepen our faith through study, reflection, and prayer. Many people treat faith as a side dish in life, something they turn to only in moments of need or habit. But to truly live as a witness to the resurrection, we must treat our faith as the main course.

Let me give you an example. Imagine someone who loves music and attends concerts regularly. They appreciate the melodies; they enjoy the performance—but compare them to someone who plays an instrument. A pianist, for example, knows the effort, the emotion, the technique behind each note. Their experience of music is deeper, richer, more personal.

Likewise, a casual churchgoer might appreciate worship and sermons, but someone who actively studies Scripture, wrestles with their doubts, and commits to a prayer life will experience the Christian faith in a far more powerful and transformative way.

You don't need to be a theologian. But if you want to truly live out the resurrection, it's essential to intentionally grow deeper. This is not about pressure or guilt about stepping into the joy, power, and freedom that resurrection life offers.

Just as a skilled musician finds freedom in playing, a believer who grows in resurrection faith will find a new kind of spiritual freedom and strength in everyday life.

Conclusion: Called to Be Witnesses

Dear brothers and sisters today is Easter Sunday. And the ancient words of Peter are still alive today: **“This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”**

How does that make your heart feel? Does it stir something in you? If it doesn't, that's okay. The beauty of our faith is that God always allows new beginnings. But if even a small part of your heart is moved by this good news, then you already have what you need to live as a witness. You don't have to be perfect, bold, or knowledgeable. You just need to say with your life, **“I believe in the risen Jesus.”**

So let us not be afraid. Let us stop comparing ourselves to the world. Let us live boldly and lovingly as those who have encountered new life in Christ.

This is your call. This is your identity. And this is the reason the church exists.

May we live the rest of our lives—humbly, joyfully, and courageously—as witnesses of the resurrection. **Amen.**

