

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA

Fesitval of the Resurrection of our Lord

April 4, 2010 – Rev. Craig A. Patterson

“He Is Not Here, But He Has Risen!”

(Text: Luke 24:1-12)

Context: After Jesus had been killed on the cross, a man by the name of Joseph of Arimethea asked Pontius Pilate for the body of Jesus in order that he could bury it. He took Jesus' body down and laid it in a tomb cut in rock where no one had been buried before. There was no time to prepare the body with the called for spices (the embalming method of the day), so Joseph and his friend, Nicodemus simply wrapped the body in linen and laid it in the tomb. After resting on the Sabbath, the women planned to come and prepare the body of Jesus with spices.

I. Some Had Called Jesus A Fake, That He Was Not The Son Of God, Not The Savior.

A. They said that Jesus should be killed for His claim to be God's Son.

1. They called Jesus' words blasphemy.
2. They accused Jesus of being the devil.
 - a. Jesus had replied, "How can Satan cast out Satan?"
3. The Jewish teachers of the Law were jealous of Jesus' growing following.
4. For all of Jesus' claims they had insisted that Jesus be killed.
 - a. Not finding any fault in Jesus himself, nonetheless, Pontius Pilate relented and had Jesus crucified on the hill called Golgotha at Jerusalem's edge.
 - b. The soldier pierced Jesus with a spear and His dead body was taken down by Joseph of Arimethea and Nicodemus and placed in a tomb. They were convinced that he was dead. They took spices to the tomb in order to prepare the dead body as soon as the Sabbath was over.

II. When The Women Returned On The First Day Of The Week, They Did Not Find The Body Of Jesus. The Body Was Not There.

A. The women were perplexed. (Their normal had been interrupted by the supernatural.)

1. The stone had been rolled away.
2. The body of their Lord was not there.
3. While they stood there in the tomb puzzled, angels appeared to them.

B. Two men, suddenly appeared and stood near them in dazzling apparel.

1. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.
2. "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" said the angels.

III. The Lord Promised That He Would Rise From The Dead On The Third Day & He Did.

A. Just as they had called His claim to be the Son of God a lie, Jesus' resurrection was called a fake, a rouse by many. (The body was stolen. He didn't really die, etc., they said.)

B. Jesus' resurrection was promised before He died and remembered by His followers.

C. The words of the angels and the empty tomb stirred the hearts of the women with wonder and amazement. ("Why do you seek the living among the dead?...He is risen!")

D. The empty tomb caused the disciple Peter to marvel.—It was all more than just words.

E. Then the reports began pouring in: (The reality of the resurrection blew away doubts.)

1. Mary, at first glance beheld Him as the gardener. When He addressed her as "Mary," she clung to Him and knew it was Jesus, "Rabboni!" she declared. See John 20:16.
2. Two disciples walking to Emmaus met a fellow traveler who walked along with them and asked them what they were discussing. They told Him of what had happened in Jerusalem with Jesus. They said that they were hoping that Jesus might be Him who would redeem Israel. The traveler explained the Old Testament Scriptures regarding the Christ to them, then their eyes were opened and they recognized it to be Jesus. He then disappeared from them.
3. Later the same day Jesus appeared to the assembled disciples in a closed room.
4. Days later, Jesus appeared to Thomas who had doubted.
5. For 40 days, Jesus walked the earth appearing to more than 500 people before He ascended to the Father.

F. The raised, living body of Jesus of Nazareth became a loud vindication of Jesus before all of His enemies.

1. All that He said was true. His sacrifice was accepted by the Father. All who believe in Him shall live even though they die just as He has been raised from the grave! Alleluia!