



## EASTER AND THE RESURRECTION

**T**oday we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ the Lord. We celebrate the Lord's victory over death and the cruel crucifixion. Without the crucifixion, there would be no Easter.

The resurrection is our story where we will rise to meet Jesus in the air like he rose from the dead. The resurrection is our story! Easter is our story!

### **John 20:1-31**

1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the LORD out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why

## EASTER AND THE RESURRECTION

weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the LORD, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God.

29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ we would have no hope for ourselves. Without Jesus' victory over death, all of our hope would

## EASTER AND THE RESURRECTION

be just a pipe dream. Where all of the other religions in the world offer a religious zeal, only Christianity offers the hope and promise of resurrection. Thus Easter not only is the history of Jesus' resurrection, but the promise of our own resurrection.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonian Church about the coming resurrection:

### **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18**

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

We call this the rapture! This is where we are promised the resurrection. As we approach the last days, the day of the Lord calling his church home is becoming more imminent. The day of the rapture is no longer afar off somewhere in the far away distance. The day of the Lord is imminent!

Christians have a hope that the world does not have. Where other religions teach theocra-

cy and good works, Christians have salvation as evidenced by the Holy Ghost. Christians have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in them. They have a portion of God as part of their being.

When you have the Spirit of God dwelling in you, you know that there is a day coming where you will rise to meet the Lord in the air.

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## The Full Gospel Church

3014 E Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19134  
Church Office Phone: (215) 634-3637  
Published by: Rev. LeRoy D. Cressy (215) 535-4037

### **Services:**

Sunday School . . . . . 11:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 12:00 Noon  
Sunday Evening . . . . . 6:30 PM  
Wednesday Evening . . . . . 7:30 PM

### Contact Information:

- **E-Mail:** [leroy@lrcressy.com](mailto:leroy@lrcressy.com)
- **U.S. Mail:**  
Rev. LeRoy D. Cressy  
P.O. Box 1731  
Philadelphia, Pa 19105-1731
- **Web Site:** <http://lrcressy.com>