**Risen in the Body**

Based on [Mark 16:1-8](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Mk16.1-8)

Preached for April 12, 2020

The Resurrection of Our Lord ~ Easter Day

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Christ is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

I hope all of you are able to celebrate Easter in sincerity and truth, as St. Paul proscribes, even though we are not gathered in the church together for the Holy Supper. This day is monumental and the centrepiece of Traditional Christian worship. Among the debates of the earliest church was when would be the appropriate time to celebrate Easter, according to Passover as calculated by the Jewish Lunar Calendar, or some other way. It doesn’t really matter I suppose. The idea that you have to get the day right is superstition. What matters is what we are celebrating, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is such a monumental event churches are named after it. Our Church is named after the Resurrection. Christ is risen, and we shall arise! There can be no greater comfort.

First, the resurrection affirms God’s creation. There are many evils and sufferings that happen in our world, but that’s not because it is naturally evil. It is fallen, broken, but it is not essential evil. Some early religions were gnostic, believing that the physical world is evil, and that true freedom is to escape it. But we know that this creation is good. God made it and, even if it is now fallen, there is a way it is supposed to be. If you buy a used car and it has rust and dents and broken parts, you don’t conclude from it that cars are bad, or even that that type of car is bad. It just needs repairs, if you think it’s worth the trouble and expense.

God created us man, male and female. And he created every bird of the air, fish in the sea, and beast of the field. And before the primal sin that brought death into the world, He called it all Good, . So the the creation a wrecked car in need of repair, the world is damaged goods, but goods nonetheless, . And the resurrection is proof that God still loves his creation enough to restore it. The resurrection is a vindication that he loves his creation and aims to fix it. The resurrection of Christ points to the resurrection of the saints, that God does not discard us, nor does he leave us disembodies souls. He repairs our bodies. He puts our sin to death, but raises our bodies to new life. Because he created us the way we should be, and he will restore us to that created glory through the resurrection of the dead.

Christ has risen from the dead. This means that he was dead. And you ought to know what we confess about this. Jesus is the eternal son of God, and in due time he was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin mary and was made man. This means that God became man. God has a body and a soul. And when they were severed in death, God raised his Son from the dead, restoring his body.

And this is a pledge and an affirmation of our human nature again. God created man, body and soul to inhabit the world he created. Then he became a man, body and soul, in order to redeem our nature. God then died, and he was now incomplete without a body. Once he shared eternal majesty and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, a glory they shared before the world was created. And they shared this glory as spirit, uncreated. But since the Son was pleased to become incarnate, and dwell fully in the body, he is eternally united with flesh and blood in the person of Jesus Christ. And though a dead Jesus still has a soul, he is an incomplete soul without a body. What a loving creator we have that he became one of us, assumed our created flesh and blood to live and rule all things as a complete man, body and soul, and to be our Saviour, Lord and King.

We live in a strange time. Not only do we have a virus pandemic that exposes the frailty of our flesh and our fear of death. Not only is our frantic fear of death exposed in the drastic measures which we have been instructed to follow to control the spread and flatten the curve. But even before this, we have lived in a time where human beings have come to rebel not only against God, but against the creation which God has ordered and called good. On the one hand, our culture says that you can have as many casual partners as you wish, on the other hand it rejects the natural consequences of such promiscuity, flaunting the diseases that are spread, but also killing those that are incidentally procreated in the process. I am speaking of abortion, which is anti-creation. As a society, we have also come to reject the complimentary roles of husband and wife as God created in the beginning, misusing our members through profanity and calling such perversion of nature “preference.” And more recently, but as rapidly as a tidal wave in the last few years, perhaps the most stunning example of resentment and rebellion against the world we did not make, it has become doctrine to say that the gender that God assigned someone in the womb is arbitrary. That gender is something malleable, something that is self-chosen regardless of the biology of the body. Not only this, but physicians prescribe hormones and surgery to reorder the flesh in order to conform it to our minds.

But thanks be to God that we who are called out of the world have the mind of christ. And Christ is not opposed to creation, he came to redeem it. O how frightening death would be if we were to know that we were never to have a body again. Mankind has told ghost stories since times immemorial, but what a horror to think that we would have to exist forever as disembodied spirits after death, that we would be forever separated from the essential nature of having a body that can touch, taste, smell, feel and see. I don’t pretend to know what death is like when our soul is kept safe with God. It is certainly going to be comforted, protected, and secure with Christ in paradise. But whatever type of existence it is, the good news of the resurrection is that we will be a new creation. We are bodily creatures and that will be reaffirmed on the last day in the resurrection of all flesh.

The glory that will be ours on the last day cannot be fully described because it cannot be fully compared. All our words and languages must speak of new things in terms of other things we have already experienced. But on this day when we recognize our justification in the resurrection of Christ’s body, we know that we are meant to inherit glory in the body. Just as Jesus Christ was raised in the body, Crushed satan, death, sin and hell in the body, was raised above the highest heaven in the body, and rules and fills all things in the body. For in the man Jesus Christ, the entire fullness of the godhead is pleased to dwell bodily. God is man, God has flesh and blood, God died and was raised in the body, and now as the uncreated creature, the man who is the image of the invisible God has become our king.

Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!