



Free Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod  
in South Africa

## Sermon- Day of Jesus' Resurrection (Proper B) 2018

*The Temple of God has been destroyed  
and rebuilt in three days! As He told you!*



St. John's Lutheran Parish  
Shelly Beach

### • The Word of God for this Sermon is written in Mark 16, 1-8:

- <sup>ESV</sup> **1** When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.
- **2** And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.
- **3** And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"
- **4** And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back- it was very large.
- **5** And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.
- **6** And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.
- **7** But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."
- **8** And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.
- Let us pray: *Come Holy Spirit, open our ears and resurrect our minds and our hearts so that we will believe and see! Amen.*

### • **Dear beloved of God!**

• Jesus has risen! He is NOT here- the words of the young man, sitting inside the tomb of Jesus! Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome, were blind to the Words of Jesus, that on the third day He would rise from the dead and that He would meet them in Galilee! That is why they came to the tomb.

They wanted to find Jesus where He was not to be found any-more! They wanted to anoint His body, because there was no time on Good Friday, before the Sabbath Day started.

• Little did they know that Jesus' body had been anointed by the woman pouring the best oil on His head in Bethany before going to Jerusalem.

• In their haste and sorrow they forgot about the huge stone in front of the tomb. Only on their way it struck them, who will roll the stone away, to get to the body

of Jesus!

• When they looked up they saw it was already rolled away, such a huge stone! They still didn't believe. All they saw was that the grave was open. And they went straight in and were shocked when they saw a young man sitting to the right where Jesus had lain. It is interesting, the Gospel of Mark does not call this man an angel, although we know from the Gospel of Matthew that it was an angel. But, Mark wants us to see him as young man in white clothing, who speaks to them, present tense, that is, who speaks today to us also: "*Do not be shocked, or afraid. Jesus, you seek, the Nazarene, the crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they have laid Him.*"

• The messenger of God held His sermon. He told them what happened to the Body of Jesus and he showed them the evidence: The place is empty! We know, indeed, that tomb is empty. Nobody has ever found the body of Jesus. Many have tried. Of that you can be sure of. Because, if anyone could provide evidence of the dead body of Christ that would indeed prove our faith to be based on a lie. In any case how does one hide a body everyone was looking for and then go and proclaim that He was raised from the dead. If they would have had resurrection from the dead on their minds, they would have gone to Galilee in the first place!

• But, the Gospel of Mark does not even consider any of these possibilities! Why? Because all these arguments operate on the false premise of seeing is believing! The last part of the message of the young man in white, zooms in on this [7]:

*"But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."*

• For us Christians the Word of Jesus is enough. Go through the Gospel and study it, if you have any doubts about whether Jesus is a liar or not. And if you have to deal with skeptics, use the Gospel of Matthew which addresses one of the main arguments the Jewish leaders came up with.

• The Gospel of Mark presupposes that we believe in Jesus Christ. And for us, Jesus' Word and the witness of the young man in white, is enough. He has risen!

- This does something wonderful to us. As this is true, because He said so, we begin to see with new eyes of faith. Our world-view changes. It has to change: We have a living Lord with us. Death is only a sleep. Let us change our language, and say 'my father has fallen asleep'. They are resting in Christ! They haven't vanished! They are safe in Christ's Body, in His reign, under His jurisdiction, safe forever and ever. Jesus is still their King, Lord and Brother!
- When death is not the end, if this is not our only life, in fact, in the light of Christ's Word, this is only the prelude, the real liturgy in full 4D or is it 5D is still to come! This changes what is valuable for us, completely! Things which were so important for us, when we were still blind- things which fed our materialistic appetite, worries and sorrows about money, clothing, food and drink- how will I survive by my own strength- this is over now. Not that we don't need these things or that we don't need to work with these things responsibly, but listen to what the young man says to the women: Go, tell His disciples!
- Its not everyone for himself or herself any-more! Jesus' resurrection certifies everything He has said and done and builds on what He had started. He had started building the temple of God! It would get destroyed, but in three days He said that He would build it up again. He was talking about the temple of His Body. Remember how they mocked Jesus at the cross about saying this? This is exactly what He did!
- We have been baptised into this crucified and resurrected temple of God, and our minds have been opened to behold this Body, the living organism, where our living Lord reigns with His means of the Spirit Through these means the living Spirit continues to wash our consciences clean, continues to sanctify us so that our minds, enlightened by our ears, will see differently! We will see members of eternal Life around us! Brothers and sisters in Christ forever!
- Yes, we don't all know what others know, the women knew more than the disciples at that stage, and so they were to tell them what they had heard. And reading it very closely, in fact, they had to remind the disciples of what *Jesus had*

*told them before already!*

- That is what our relationship with one another will consist of, reminding each other about the Word of Christ! When I go through stressful times, someone needs to remind me of the Word of Christ. I have to check if it is truly coming from the Lord. I can check it against the written Holy Scriptures. If it was according to Christ's Word that other person acted as an active living member of Christ, empowered by the Head.
- Can you see the living Body active through the Word and in the Word, all members abiding in the living Head, never to die again!
- That is what the Resurrection of Jesus does with us. It preaches the Word of Christ with authority, with steadfastness, with certainty, pregnant with forgiveness, relief of guilt, handing out sanctification to weak sinners and resurrecting our mind and spirit so that we will NOT look for Jesus in the grave, but with the living!
- Just as He has told! Glory be to the Father, Glory be to the Son and Glory be to the Holy Spirit! *Amen.*
- *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen. [2 Cor 13, 14].*