

Easter Sunday - Our Saviors Lutheran Church- April 21st, 2019

Text- Luke 24:1-12

The Three Women Got It! Can We?

Grace and Peace to you and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ is Risen - (Congregation responds) He is Risen Indeed

Christ is Risen - (") louder - He is Risen Indeed

Christ is Risen - (") much louder - He is Risen Indeed

Happy Easter. On behalf of the staff and leadership and the 1000 members who call Our Savior's in beautiful downtown Neenah, "home", I wish you a Blessed Easter Day. This is a day filled with traditions, egg hunts, candy galore, brunches, family gatherings. I am told that Easter is second only to Halloween for candy sales in this nation. Dentists love this day. Most of us will gather with loved ones and enjoy an Easter dinner together. My prayer will be that this dinner will be filled with care and love for all family members gathered. For those of you who struggle with an Easter dinner due to any amount of dysfunction, my prayer will be that you employ the words of Jesus in your hearts and reach out to all with great love and acceptance. Love others as Christ has loved you. Yes. Easter dinner is a big part of our traditions.

Here's a cute story.

Young six year old Ernie and his family were invited to his Grandmother's house in Neenah for Easter dinner. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Ernie received his plate, he started eating straight away. "Ernie, wait until we say grace" demanded his father. "I don't have to," Ernie replied. "Of course you do Ernest," his mother insisted rather forcefully. "We always say a prayer before we eat at our house". "That's at our house", Ernie explained." But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook."

Our Gospel story is a familiar one even though each Gospel writer tells a little different story. One account has Mary going to the tomb first and sees the stone rolled away. She runs and tells a few disciples who do their own limited CSI investigation. They go back home probably to figure out what to do. Who stole the Body? Let's get a search team together. Mary stays at the tomb. She sees angels. They converse with her and in addition to that she has a conversation with

Jesus, who she believes at first is a Gardener. Mary runs and tells the disciples “I have seen the Lord.” The disciples probably thought Mary was losing it. Or said “That’s Impossible.”, or “What are you smoking Mary?” Nobody was expecting a resurrection on that very first Easter Day.

Among the tales that circulated around Jerusalem were - someone stole the body- He wasn’t really dead on Friday- or the body was moved to a different tomb. This account has three women going to the tomb to prepare the body for burial. When they get there, the stone is rolled away and they do not find the body of Jesus. Two men, visions of angels, appear. The women hit the ground in fright. The angelic creatures remind the women what Jesus said. Then they remembered the words of Jesus. “The son of man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.” The women got it. The three women were just like us, just normal people.

They go back to the 11 remaining disciples. Remember, Judas is gone. They think that the tale is nonsense. Claim it is Fake News. Funny how the truth is so easily portrayed as Fake News. Peter, the impulsive one, decides to check it out and leaves scratching his head. He and the other 10 did not get it.

So here on this Easter Sunday we need to deal with the question, can we get it? Can we remember the words of Jesus, the promise.

You are at an Easter dinner and the tension among your family members is gone. There is love in the air. You feel the presence of Jesus. You get it.

You are at the doctor’s office and he is explaining the treatment plan for your cancer that has returned. There is a still small voice in your ear. I will be with you, Jesus whispers. Nothing can separate us. You get it.

You are at church. It’s a funeral for your loved one of 44 years. It’s a rough day. How do you go on? What will happens now? The Pastor tells a homily where he talks about Jesus is preparing a place for us. Something about rooms in heaven. And then you feel a peace. Your loved one will be in heaven, with Jesus, because he promised. As he was raised from the dead, so will your loved one. You get it!

You are having a discussion with your teenage son. The communication has been lousy of late. But today you see his face, really see it. It's a face of one trying, of some pain but of one trying. There is tug at your heart and a voice that comes out of your mouth. Let's both try harder, son. I'll try and I hope you do as well. When you walk away you feel the presence of Jesus. Wow. You get it!

Whenever we feel the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives, it is an affirmation that the resurrection accounts are not Fake News but the real thing.

The Women got it! Now can we?

With God's help, we can.

Happy Easter to you and your loved ones.

Amen. Let it be so.