

# New Life in Christ

Easter Sunday



1 Corinthians 15:12-28 Matthew 28:1-10

Pastor Dave Bolte

Trinity Lutheran Church, Litchfield Park, AZ

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When Jesus died on the cross, one of the very last things He said was **It is Finished**. These words are really a shout of victory -- they mean that the hard work of earning our salvation was complete, Jesus has done **100% of the work** for us and in our place.

- His perfect and holy life was lived for us and in our place
- His death on the cross is the only sacrifice God will accept for payment of your sins<sup>1</sup>.
- Jesus truly **lived** for you; and He **died** for you<sup>2</sup>!

Everything needed for our salvation is completed by the Son of God<sup>3</sup>!

When Jesus cried out **It is Finished**, He was proclaiming to the world that the work of salvation was finished and it remains finished forever!

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<sup>1</sup> These first two bullet points eliminate any work, effort, or merit on your part to assist Jesus in salvation. The New Testament books of Romans and Galatians were written to teach this to us. If you rely on any work, effort, or merit of your own, then you are lost, you have abandoned Christ, and you have forfeited salvation. See Galatians 3:10 for a summary statement.

<sup>2</sup> This is a summary statement of the doctrine of the Perfect Obedience of Christ, where His perfect life is imputed to you through faith ("Active Obedience of Christ"); and His sacrificial death was payment for your sin and guilt ("Passive Obedience of Christ").

<sup>3</sup> This is the Gospel! Salvation is Jesus's work alone through His death, burial, and resurrection! For centuries the Holy Christian Church has summarized this by saying that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone!,

In order to confirm this, God the Father raised His Son from the dead on the Third Day. *The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is God the Father declaring to the world that He accepts His Son's sacrifice for us.* God the Father counts Jesus's perfect life as if it was your very own; God the Father considers Jesus's death for your sins as if you had died for your sins. Everything Jesus did, He did for you and in your place, and God the Father confirms that by raising Him from the dead on the Third Day.

This is Gospel good news for us who are **SINFUL AND UNCLEAN**. Because of sin in our lives, and guilt in our consciences, we could never do the work of saving ourselves. There is nothing you can do to make up for your sins, there is nothing you can do to create peace between you and God, there is nothing you can do to escape death, dying, and the final judgment. Our sin is a terrible thing, we rebel against God, disobey His commandments, and sin against other people. It leaves us spiritually dead, knowing that physical death is soon coming.

That's why God sent His Son Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus does the work for us. It's His life that earns your salvation. It's His death that pays for your sins. When He cried out **It is Finished** on the cross, He was talking about His work of salvation for you and in your place. *The work of salvation is **finished**, and it remains finished forever.*

Today hear this Good News, **and believe it.** Everything Jesus did He did for you and for your salvation. He is the one God the Father sent to rescue you from sin, guilt, and death. This Good News creates a **desire** within you so that you **want** what Jesus gives you: forgiveness of sins, peace with God, and eternal life. That **want and desire** for God's good gifts in Christ is **faith**; today **believe** that Jesus

died on the cross and rose from the dead on the Third Day for you and for your salvation!

Faith in Christ, the Crucified and Risen One, gives you **new life**. One of the gifts of salvation is eternal life, and the hope of the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day. Along with that comes new life now, new spiritual life as you live each day. An easy way to think about this new spiritual life is that you **value God's Word** and you **obey His Commandments**<sup>4</sup>.

The Word of God is powerful and active in our lives. **God's Word of Law** convicts you of your sin and leads you to repentance; **God's Word of Gospel** forgives you and empowers you to holy living. The Word of God, the Bible, is the voice of Christ in your life. That's why the Bible is so important to us as conservative Lutheran Christians. *In fact, if you need a Bible, I will give you one for free after church today.* The resurrection of Jesus Christ creates a want and desire to hear God's Word; in faith, you strive to be Biblically literate and doctrinally sound.

Faith in Christ also drives you to obey **God's Commandments**. You learn His morals, His values, and His ethics based on the **10 Commandments**. You take God's Word to heart and you put it into practice. You learn to love your neighbor, and to treat other people with patience and kindness. That includes:

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<sup>4</sup> In John 14:23, Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will hold to My Word." That is an easy way to think about your daily life in Christ: Hold to His Word. Learn His Teachings. Obey His Commandments. The Word of God shapes our new life of faith. Our response to God's great gift of salvation is to hold to His Word – and by doing so, we love God and serve our neighbor.

- + Respecting authority in your life
- + Understanding the value of every single life; even the unborn. We are pro-life people because God is pro-life.
- + Guarding and protecting marriage: one biological man and one biological woman in a lifelong commitment
- + Avoiding sexual immorality in all of its forms – including homosexuality
- + Protect our neighbors possessions as if they were our own
- + Defend our neighbors reputation and honor
- + And we guard our heart from the sins of coveting, pride, lust and greed; we are careful to not chase after the things of the world but to shape our lives around the Word of God.

New life in Christ means that we value God's **10 Commandments**, and in doing so,

- + We learn to love our neighbors as ourselves
- + We learn to hate what is evil, and to cling to what is good
- + We confess Christ to our family and friends so that they too can have their sins forgiven to faith in Jesus Christ!

Faith in Christ, the Crucified and Risen One, gives you **new life**.

This weekend began in the darkness of Good Friday, when the Son of God cried out **It is Finished** from the cross. The work of salvation is complete. Forgiveness of sins is a gift from God to you. To confirm that this is true, God the Father **raised His Son from the dead** on the Third Day!

May God the Holy Spirit give you faith, confidence, and conviction in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the Savior of the world! Amen!

**Father In Heaven**, You raised Your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead as the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Fill all Your baptized people with the joy of His victory, and send us forth as witnesses to His resurrection.

Lord, wherever Your Gospel is preached throughout the world, create and sustain faith in all who hear it, delivering them from the power of darkness and bringing them into the Kingdom of Your risen Son Jesus Christ. Lord, bless our efforts here at Trinity Lutheran Church to make disciples as we baptize and teach your Holy Word.

Heavenly Father, in every time of need, hear the prayers of those who call upon You, especially those who are in distress, those who are lonely and homebound, the sick, the dying and the mourning. May Your Son be their strength in their time of need; and Send your Holy Spirit so they may patiently endure.

King of the nations, remember in Your kindness all who bear authority in our land, and give them wisdom and integrity that they may serve us according to Your will.

Lord we pray today for our church body, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and ask that your powerful Holy Spirit will be at work through your Holy Word to create and strengthen faith and to make disciples of many people.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, *who has taught us to pray . . . LP*

## **Matthew 28:1-10**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

<sup>2</sup> There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

<sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

<sup>8</sup> So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

## **1 Corinthians 15:12-28**

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For he "has put everything under his feet." [c] Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.