



WEEKLY STUDY

EASTER

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen from the grave! The tomb is empty! We can join in Jesus' resurrection-life. I hope that this week will include a multitude of reminders that Jesus is making all things new.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 24.1-8 (NIV)

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

- The women had heard the promises of Jesus. They had heard him say that he would be resurrected from the grave, but the words didn't make any sense until this moment when they were reminded by the men at the tomb. A promise of this scale can seem too good to be true. We are sometimes guilty of taking Jesus' words metaphorically. "Surely he didn't mean that his body would walk out of the tomb..." With God, what seems to be too good to be true is entirely possible. **What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for your life all of these years later?**
- *God of resurrection and new life, would you bring me back to life today? I want to raise up with Jesus. Amen.*

TUESDAY: 1 PETER 1.3-5 (NIV)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

- 1 Peter reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus was not just about a hero who won a single battle 2,000 years ago, but that he is still giving new life to people just like us today. It is our inheritance, stored in heaven for us. It is ready to be revealed! **Can you picture the new resurrected life just waiting for you in heaven? It is meant to produce for us a great hope and a new birth even while we wait for “the last time”.**
- *Holy God, remind me of the inheritance that awaits me in your presence. Encourage me when I am tempted to lose hope. My hope is in Jesus. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: JOHN 11.25-27 (NIV)

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ *“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”*

- This conversation between Jesus and Martha occurred when Martha's brother Lazarus was dead and in the tomb. Martha had hoped that Jesus would arrive in time to save him. Those events and that seemingly unfortunate timing led up to the resurrection of Lazarus. Jesus prepared Martha for what was to come by asking her if she believed that he had resurrection power. **What does it mean to you that Jesus is the resurrection and is the life?**
- *God, thank you for the gift of resurrection. Strengthen me in my belief today. Amen.*

THURSDAY: ROMANS 10.9-13 (NIV)

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.¹¹ As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- Paul's words in his letter to the believers in Rome echo the words of Jesus, but point out just how groundbreaking they were. Jew and Gentile (that's everyone!) are able to be saved by believing in their heart that Jesus is Lord and that leads to professing Jesus with our mouths. Notice how the heart and the mouth are connected. If you believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord, then those words will find their way out of your mouth! **Do you believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord? If so, how is that belief being heard and witnessed by those around you?**
- *God, your Son Jesus is Lord of my life. Deepen my faith and give me voice to proclaim it outloud today. Amen.*

FRIDAY: REVELATION 1.17-18 (NIV)

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

- John was recording the vision given to him. When he found himself in the presence of Jesus he could hardly stand it. It was too wonderful. Notice the way Jesus sought to assure John by reminding him who he was. Jesus has been around since the beginning, and will be with us to the end. Better said, he'll be with us through the end. He has defeated death and invites us into his forever-life. **If your life is in Jesus, what does it mean that you are among the "living ones"?**
- *God, today I give you thanks for sending Jesus. I believe that he was with you in the beginning and that he will be with you through the end. Amen.*

SATURDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 15.20-26 (NIV)

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.

- Spend some time reading all of chapter 15 from 1 Corinthians. Paul was facing some questions and false teaching about the resurrection of Jesus. Some people were saying that Jesus hadn't been raised from the dead on Easter. Paul explained how the resurrection of Jesus reverses the death brought about by Adam in the garden of Eden. Not only that, but all that stands against God will be destroyed, including death itself. **Paul was good with words. How does your life proclaim the resurrection of Jesus?**
- *Hallelujah! God I praise for your resurrection power demonstrated in Jesus and made possible for me today. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

On Easter weekend, we filled out response cards that included space to do several things. How would you like your group to pray for you in these areas?

I need Jesus.

I need healing.

I need hope.