



WEEKLY STUDY

Easter 2025

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

What a great weekend at Providence Church! I hope you were able to join us in person or online. If you have a question or two that start with “Can God even...?” (heal me, restore my marriage, bring me out of addiction, silence wars?) the answer is always yes, God can. The resurrection of Jesus after three days dead and in a tomb is the key event in all of history. God can and has defeated death itself. What will he do in your life?

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for those who have encountered Jesus for the first time at Providence Church on Easter Weekend.
- Pray for those who seek healing and new life in Jesus.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 24.1-8 (ESV)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”⁸ And they remembered his words.

- I love how this story starts. “*But on...*” Of course we can turn back a page in our Bible to remember what events had just happened. (Jesus’ body was placed in a tomb) But we can also imagine our own moments where it feels like we are facing death...*but on the first day of the week...* Jesus rose from the grave! You see how it fits as the answer to our own devastation? Take a few moments to write about the ways in which you or those around you are feeling the weight of death and loss. Let your last line of writing start with, “But on the first day of the week...!”

- **Prayer Prompt: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6.23)**
- *God,* Your grace is the only hope I have. I was dead in my own sin but you have given me the gift of eternal life in Jesus! Amen!

TUESDAY: LUKE 24.1-8 (ESV)

- The first witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection had an early morning encounter with their friend and Savior. There’s something about fresh discoveries of God’s activity early in the morning that seems right. Maybe we are just more in tune when the world is a little quieter. In the stillness of the early morning, when there is dew on the grass and the only noise is from a few birds, we are made aware. It’s a good time to set our hearts on resurrection because everything seems to be coming back to life. Where do you regularly see signs of resurrection?

- **Prayer Prompt: “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.**
¹⁹ **See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43.18-19)**
- *Jesus, I look for evidence of the new life you are inviting me into. Speak to me in the early morning and throughout the day. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 24.1-8 (ESV)

- The whole Easter story is perplexing...it’s ok if you find it to be that way. In fact, it’s revolutionary to believe that God can redeem all of the broken creation through the life, death and resurrection of his Son. Imagine yourself in the story. What goes through your mind when you discover the empty tomb? Are you fearful? Hopeful? Angry? As the women heard the news that Jesus had risen, the whole world shifted. Death had never been defeated like this! They had to reorient their understanding of what was possible. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for your life today?

- **Prayer Prompt: “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. (John 11.25-26)**
- *Jesus, I believe in you. You died on a cross for me and you rose from the grave so that I could have life forever with God. Thank you Lord! Amen.*

THURSDAY: LUKE 24.1-8 (ESV)

- The women had been carrying spices to anoint Jesus’ body. They were clearly expecting to find Jesus there. The angels at the tomb made it clear that they had prepared the spices in vain. A fully alive body doesn’t require spices! This could cause us to consider: Are carrying around spices assuming that God is no longer actively bringing salvation to this world? Or are we looking eagerly for signs of resurrection? Journal your response to these questions.

- **Prayer Prompt: Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. (Romans 6.8-9)**
- *God, I know that you are inviting me to live a resurrection-life. I want to live in the knowledge and belief that Christ is risen! Amen.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 24.1-8 (ESV)

- The two men in dazzling white clothes appeared to the women at the tomb and asked, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” Jesus had told his disciples that this would happen, but they did not understand. Perhaps they thought he had been speaking in metaphors when talking about raising from the dead. The question from the gleaming men at the tomb was also an announcement—a reminder of the promises of Jesus—and a pulling back of the curtain. This was the plan all along, and the women were there to witness it come true! Are there any ways in which you tend to “look for the living among the dead”? Do you return to places or situations that have meant a kind of death for you?

- **Prayer Prompt: I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living. (Psalm 27.13-14)**
- *Jesus, Give me eyes to how your resurrection-life is bearing fruit in my life and in the world around me, even now. Amen.*

SATURDAY: LUKE 24.1-8 (ESV)

- When the women remembered the words of Jesus about his resurrection they had a kind of awakening. They had been asleep in their grief. For all of the prior day (the Sabbath) they had to sit in the sadness of Jesus’ death. It was out of that sadness and their love for Jesus that they prepared spices and walked before sunrise to the tomb. The proclamation of the angels at the tomb woke them up to the Good News that they had already heard yet had not understood. Are you fully awake to the Good News of Jesus’ resurrection? What sadness are you carrying that could be carried to the empty tomb? Give it to Jesus and receive the hope of his promises.

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- **Prayer Prompt: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11.28-30)**
 - *God, I ask you to turn my mourning into dancing. Bring me joy as I wake up to the Good News of the eternal life you offer to me. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read the passage again.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” ⁸ And they remembered his words,

- Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave so that you can have eternal life?
- Are there burdens that you are carrying that you think might be too much for Jesus to handle?
- How does your Small Group of Discipleship Group remind you about God’s promises in Jesus?