

Easter Sermon
Preached at the Sunrise Service
April 20, 2025

This is a little bit different from what is usually heard on Easter morning. Different. But not wrong. It covers the same points, though not in as great a detail, “put Him to death by hanging on a tree, but God raised Him on the third day.” Happy Easter!! He is risen!!

What I like about this passage is that it tells the story of Jesus in a very concise manner. When in college, Campus Crusade for Christ said that we should create our own witness statement as to why we believed in Jesus, and it should only be about 3 to 5 minutes long. Think about it, you meet someone, or you are at an interview, either the interviewer, or interviewee, and someone says “tell me about yourself.” You do not talk for 30 min, 3 minutes is probably too long. That is what Peter has done here, the life of Jesus in a few verses, but also implied is why he believes.

First, Peter is talking to Gentiles. He has gradually become aware that God wants the message of Jesus spread all over the world, and not just to the Jews. There is a whole other sermon on that topic. So Peter starts to summarize Jesus' life, by saying “you know what happened”. This is referring to the headlines of Jesus' life, what was publicly known. John's call to repentance, Jesus baptism and anointing by God with the Holy Spirit and power. Jesus went around doing good and healing, then was put to death, and arose on the third day. That is not anything to gloss over. Jesus rose from the dead!!

Then Peter adds the private stuff. Jesus rose from the dead, and ate and drank with witnesses. Eating and drinking shows two things, one, He had a physical body and two that Jesus was close to these witnesses, they had a personal connection, the same personal connection that He has with us. Jesus was also seen by more than 500 people. This is in 1 Corinthians 15:6. I will quote author and theologian Lee Strobel “I went to a psychologist friend and said if 500 people claimed to see Jesus after He died, was it just a hallucination? The psychologist said hallucinations are an individual event. If 500 people have the same hallucination, that's a bigger miracle than the resurrection.” Peter finishes with the great commandment, to preach Jesus, that He gives forgiveness to those who believe in Him.

As I do not want my comments to be longer than the actual verses, I will wrap it up. Peter summarizes 3 years into less than 10 verses. Think how you can summarize your life with Jesus, what He has done for you, and why you believe. Jesus is alive and with us. Be aware of how He loves us, cares for us, and interacts with our lives. **HE LIVES!! HE LIVES INDEED!!**

BENEDICTION

Go in the love of God. Rejoice in the life that He has given you. Jesus lives. Jesus lives indeed. Amen

Candy Iwanicki