



*No wonder
they
crucified
Him*

EASTER MONDAY
DEVOTIONAL

APRIL 18, 2022

Today is Easter Monday! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!!



On our journey this year we reflected on a number of stories that led Jesus to hang from a criminal's cross.

Yet, were able to reflect on and hear from Jesus how these same stories can lead to life, as they challenge ideas and behaviors that are commonly accepted in the culture around us, but from God's perspective, do not advance our lives in the way we have been created to be.

To create space for Christ's transforming presence, we paused at the end of each week to not just talk about Jesus but to talk with Jesus. To really hear from Jesus and discern how we should live in response.



At the beginning of our journey, Jesus offered us a choice – a decisive moment to turn towards His way of life rather than staying neutral or turning away.

Jesus then showed us how to orient our lives towards Him by how we define success. Jesus helped us to see that as His followers, our lives are not to power over others. Rather we are to live as Jesus lived and be downwardly mobile in the same way Jesus was downwardly mobile in the way of the cross.

Sometimes we are resistant to being downwardly mobile because our heart is clinging to something that is preventing us from following Jesus. During the third week of our journey, we were gifted by Jesus a way to see what our hearts were clinging to and offered the invitation to let go to truly have life.

As we continued to listen to Jesus, we reflected on how we are called to be the keeper of our hearts. We do this by cultivating spiritual practices enabling us to create space for God's grace to flow over and transform our hearts.

Our transformation by God's grace, takes on new depths when we live in the reality of grace as a verb and not simply a noun. When we realize God's grace is meant to be dynamic and empower our lives and not static and treated as something needed only when sinning.

As we entered into Holy Week, we created space to hear Jesus' invitation to pray that we don't fall into temptation.

So we reflected on where we needed to HALT - H-A-L-T – to ask ourselves if we are feeling Hungry – physically or emotionally – Angry, Lonely, or Tired.

We do this because it's typically when we're experiencing one or more of these conditions, that we are much more susceptible to making poor choices and to give in to the temptations that come our way.

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What has this year's Lenten Journey been like for you?

Challenging and hopeful? ...Exciting and joyful...Expectant and loving? How would you describe it as you reflect on the summary of our journey?

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As you listen to this week's Scripture, hear the Apostle Paul inspire us to live now, in light of the resurrection power we have available to us in Jesus.

SCRIPTURE
ROMANS 6:1–3, 6–14 (MSG)

^{1–3} So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? ...

^{6–11} Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer captive to sin's demands! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in His life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, He took sin down with Him, but alive He brings God down to us.

From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did.

^{12–14} That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you've been raised from the dead!—into God's way of doing things. Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.

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During our Sunday morning worship services this Lenten season, we challenged one another to Keep Lent by prayerfully offering to Jesus this Lenten prayer of commitment...

Jesus less of my _____

Jesus more of your _____

In these final moments today, in light of Resurrection Sunday, and where we have journeyed this Lenten season – how is Jesus lovingly empowering you to offer one final time for this year’s Lenten journey

Jesus less of my _____

Jesus more of your _____

Spend now a few moments listening for Jesus to respond.



CLOSING AFFIRMATION
JOHN 6:66–69 (NLT)

⁶⁶ At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?”

⁶⁸ Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. ⁶⁹ We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.