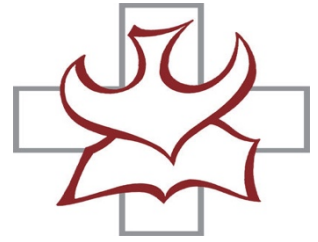


Burning Hearts

Philippians 3:1-10 Luke 24:13-35

April 28, 2019

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The **death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ** is the *central teaching* of the Holy Christian Church; it is the *most important thing* in the Kingdom of God, and it is the *Gospel Good News* that brings *forgiveness of sins* and *eternal life* to every one of us!

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that **Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the World**; it shows that **His words are true and trustworthy**; and it assures us **that our sins have been paid for!**

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead **separates Christianity** from all the other world religions. The Resurrection **separates Jesus** from all other so-called “prophets” and “gods”.

The Resurrection is the cornerstone on which the One, Holy, Christian, & Apostolic Church stands; and it is the essence of the preaching and teaching of Christianity.

As those who hear and believe the Easter Gospel, it changes our lives. There is power in the Resurrection that is seen in concrete ways in your life. St. Paul talked about that Resurrection power today in this scripture lesson:

I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:10-11

So what does this “Resurrection power” look like?

The power of the Resurrection was seen in the Emmaus story that we heard today. Jesus appears as a mysterious traveler, and then reveals Himself as the crucified and risen Savior through His Word and the Meal.

He does the same thing for us --- the Emmaus story is a dramatic visual representation of what happens in our worship services as well.

**We hear the Gospel and eat His Meal
and we are given faith to recognize, know, and believe
that Jesus has risen from the dead!**

In the Emmaus story, the power of the resurrection is seen in 2 key ways:

They asked each other, "Were not our **hearts burning** within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32

The Words of Jesus create *burning hearts*. A “burning heart” is a heart that believes in the resurrection of Jesus Christ; it’s a heart that is excited about the Good News of Jesus; a heart that has **confidence** and **conviction** that Jesus is alive and that He is present with you. A *burning heart* is when the Lord “*opens your eyes*” and you believe that He is risen from the dead. It is a **passion** for Christ and His Word; it’s a **hunger and thirst** for more and more of His teachings. It’s a **desire** to be a passionately engaged disciple of Jesus Christ. It’s a **zeal** for the Kingdom of God.

The Good News of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ creates “burning hearts”.

- ✓ Does that describe you?
- ✓ Do you have a confidence and conviction in Christ?
- ✓ Do you have a passion and zeal for the things of God?

We are only a week past Easter now; has your heart been burning because of the Easter Gospel? *If not – does that bother you?*

The Good News of Easter not only creates “burning hearts”, but also “a bold witness.” The power of the Resurrection drives you to share it with others!

And they **rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem.** And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "**The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!**" Luke 24:33

These disciples in Emmaus got up “at once” and walked 7 more miles --- from Emmaus all the way back to Jerusalem -- to tell others about Jesus!

The power of the Resurrection creates a **mission zeal** within you. You feel **compelled** to tell someone else about the Risen Savior. There is a **drive** within you to find a way to talk about Christ.

You know that Jesus is the Savior of the world Who’s death and resurrection brings forgiveness of sins and eternal life. You can’t keep that to yourself! The power of the Resurrection drives you to share it with others!

Remember that most people in your life do not believe in Jesus as their Savior – they are tangled up in their sins, distracted by the world, and separated from God. Because we care about them, and their eternal salvation, we talk about Jesus and His resurrection. The power of the Resurrection is that it creates a **mission zeal** and **bold confession** within you. *Like the Emmaus disciples, you feel compelled to tell others about the Risen Savior.*

When you get right down to it, the Power of the Resurrection changes you – like it changed those disciples on the road to Emmaus. It creates burning hearts full of faith and a zeal to boldly share Christ.

Finally, one other thing.

The Luke 24 passage of the Emmaus disciples becomes the pattern of worship for the Holy Christian Church. The Emmaus story becomes a visual picture for us to understand what happens when we gather to [worship](#).

- † In worship, the Risen Jesus is here. He is present – just like He was with those Emmaus disciples. But He has chosen to be invisible until the Last Day. By faith, we know, believe and understand that He is here personally in our presence as we worship Him.
- † In worship, Jesus “*talks with us on the road and opens Scripture to us.*” Lutheran Worship is focused on the Word of God – where Jesus teaches

us each week and creates “burning hearts” among those who hear, believe and obey. Whenever you hear the Gospel --- no matter who is speaking it -- it is the same as if Jesus Himself were sitting and talking to you.

† In Worship, Jesus has a meal with us in Holy Communion and we “recognize” Him; Holy Communion gives us the confidence and conviction that Jesus is alive and He forgives our sins. He has promised that when we “take and eat, THIS IS MY BODY”; and when we “take and drink, THIS IS MY BLOOD.”

† In worship, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and He creates a **mission zeal** and gives us a **bold witness** as we leave here and go out into the world – into our homes and into our vocations. You are sent to the people in your life to be a witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

The Worship Service is where the power of the Resurrection intersects with your life each week.

Lutheran Worship is first a **Service of the Word**; and then a **Service of the Meal**: just as it was at Emmaus. Through Word and Meal the risen Savior is here in our midst, creating **burning hearts, mission zeal, and bold witness** within you. **That is the power of the Resurrection.** *Just like in Emmaus: it all comes together as we gather around the Resurrected Savior Jesus Christ to hear His Word and eat His meal.*

This is why worship is **so important** of for us.

This is what we **desperately** need to teach our children so they understand what is going on in worship and they won’t think worship is “boring” or “repetitious”. The Resurrection Savior is personally and actually here in His Word and His Meal to forgive sins and strengthen faith!

This is why we **don’t skip church** ... what could possibly be more important than being in the very presence of Jesus, hearing His Word and eating His meal?

Like the Emmaus disciples, we gather in worship around the Risen Savior Jesus Christ! His Word and His Meal creates **burning hearts, mission zeal** and a **bold witness** within us.

May the power of the Resurrection be seen in your life! Amen!