

Easter - 2026

He is no longer in the grave:

In 1887, twenty-two years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, his coffin was dug up and opened because there were constant rumors that his body was not in the grave. So, they dug it up and the body was there. The rumors continued so 14 years later they had to dig it up again. Both times witnesses were present who testified that Lincoln was still in the grave. — Three days after the death of Jesus Christ, similar rumors began to spread throughout the land of Israel. Only this time there were no witnesses who could say that they had seen His body. In fact, to the contrary, many witnesses claimed to have seen him out of His grave and even talked with Him after the Resurrection. As great a man as Lincoln was, there were witnesses to prove he was still in the grave. If one of our Presidents or another leader in our government were to cry out today to Lincoln for help, there would be no response. If a scientist were to cry out to Einstein for help today there would only be empty silence. If someone were to call out to Mohammed or Buddha or Gandhi today there would be no help. But if you and I call out to Jesus Christ there is instant power available to us... power to change lives ...why? Because He lives! (Rev. David Henderson). (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

No Grave Deep Enough

Several years ago, The Saturday Evening Post ran a cartoon showing a man about to be rescued after he had spent a long-time ship-wrecked on a tiny deserted island. The sailor in charge of the rescue team stepped onto the beach and handed the man a stack of newspapers.

"Compliments of the Captain," the sailor said. "He would like you to glance at the headlines to see if you'd still like to be rescued!" Sometimes the headlines do scare us. Sometimes we feel that evil is winning, but then along comes Easter, to remind us that there is no grave deep enough, no seal imposing enough, no stone heavy enough, no evil strong enough to keep Christ in the grave.

(by James W. Moore from *Some Things Are Too Good Not To Be True in Dimensions*, 1994, p. 80)

As I look around, I see great events playing out on the world stage:

Cancer continues to take its toll around the globe. Countries face off in tense negotiations over trade, border disputes, and ancient grievances.

An unprecedented ability to communicate ideas and beliefs to any part of the planet and to any person is quickly becoming commonplace. And the ability to move produce and goods around the world makes it possible as never before to bring significant relief to regions that suffer. These world-shaping events are so important. They are literally changing the course of history. The real action is out there doing the world shaping. And then I am reminded of two things.

First, I am reminded that no event in history has shaped the world like the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And **Second**, I am reminded of this simple fact about life. Life does not go on forever. There is death. Every one of us must face our mortality. There is no military victory, no medical cure, no global village that can prepare any individual to answer the ultimate questions in life. And this morning I stand to proclaim Hope, the hope of His Resurrection. There is death. Yes. But life is in Jesus Christ, the hope of our resurrection.

Friends, you have come here this morning with a sense of anticipation and longing. There are sobering questions on your mind and much hangs in the balance. Is there hope? Is there new life? Is there reason for joy? The answer to your questions has arrived this day. It is here waiting for you.

It is a three-word message: Christ Is Risen! Good news for the depressed.

Good news for those who have lost loved ones. Good news. Good news to those who have lost their joy, Christ is risen.

Consider with me this morning the implications of Easter.

1. First, because of the Resurrection the disciples were changed.
2. Secondly, because of the Resurrection our view of death has changed.
3. Because of the resurrection, our view of Jesus has changed.

On Redemption

The catholic priest Erasmus two centuries ago wrote these powerful words. Listen: How much more wonderful the work of redemption is, in comparison with creation. It is more marvelous that God was made man than that He created the angels; that He wailed in a stable than that He reigns in the heavens. The creation of the world was a work of power, but the redemption of the world was a work of mercy.

(by Erasmus)