

Romans 6:1–9

April 4, 2021

“Christ is risen. In him we rise!”

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday

Rev. Brent Hartwig

Grace, Mercy, and Peace be unto you from Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior and God our Heavenly Father. Amen! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

[**Introduction**] [1] Christ is risen! *He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!*

There is no more significant phrase in any human language than these three words:  
Christ is risen!

It’s an incredible claim, for if it’s true—and it *is* true!—  
then everything we know about life and death  
[2] is turned completely upside down.

These three words fill our mouths and they thrill our hearts,  
for Jesus’s resurrection brings hope to those who are living in despair.  
It brings joy to those who are overcome by grief.  
It brings life to those who are living in death.

There’s simply no more significant phrase *EVER SPOKEN*  
than our joy-filled Easter proclamation,  
Christ is risen! *He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!*

[3] For the last six weeks, we have been thinking about the good news, the Gospel.  
We’ve been thinking about how we confess the gospel of Jesus Christ.  
We’ve been trying to narrow it down to just seven words.

[**Easter Sunday in Seven Words**]

On this Easter morning

I’d like to craft one more version of a gospel statement.

On this great day of resurrection,

I’d like to try and capture the significance of Jesus’s victory over the grave,  
and use only seven words.

Our first three words are already set.

[4] As we’ve been saying all morning, “Christ is risen!”  
And that’s a great way to start.

But we’ve still got four more words.

[5] We’ve got four more words to capture  
what makes Jesus’s resurrection so significant for us.

**[Christ is risen, just as he said!]**

Before he died, Jesus told his disciples he would rise from the dead.

Several times, in fact! John 2. Matthew 12 and 16 and 17. Luke 13. Mark 8

Just to name a few!

And it wasn't just Jesus.

The prophets of old who lived hundreds of years before Jesus was even born,

The prophets had foretold these events as well (Luke 24:45–47).

We'd be mistaken if we thought of Jesus's resurrection as

just one more biblical miracle.

Or even if we imagined it as simply another sign of God's might.

No, Jesus's resurrection was the fulfillment of God's word throughout the ages.

It was the core of God's meticulously crafted plan of salvation.

Jesus had promised he would rise from the dead,

and when he did, he proved his divinity.

He vindicated everything he had ever said and ever done.

Because Jesus rose

we can trust everything he said!

So how could we capture that in a seven-word confession?

**[6]** How about this: "Christ is risen, just as he said!"

That's true. And that's very significant.

But you see, Easter is about more than past prophecy.

Easter is also about the future. **[7]** So let's try another.

**[Christ is risen, so we'll live forever!]**

**[8]** On Good Friday we talked about the fact that

death rules as lord over this broken creation.

None of us can outwit or outsmart or outlast death.

The slow and steady march of life

**[9]** is always leading us another step closer to the grave.

**[10]** And yet, the resurrection of Jesus

shows that death is no longer in charge.

Because of Jesus, death is no longer our master.

We may still die. But even if we do,

death is no longer the end of our story.

**[11]** For... I have been crucified with Christ...and I live!

Through faith in Christ, and

through the promise that God makes to us in our baptism,

we will live even after death.

[12] So how about these seven words:

[13] “Christ is risen, so we’ll live forever!”

That’s true. And that’s incredibly significant.

It means we need not fear death, and that we have hope for eternal life.

But, and you might have seen this coming by now,

even as Easter is about more than past promises,

it’s also about more than eternal life in the future.

Easter also changes everything in the present.

Right here and right now.

Easter changes every single one of us even this morning.

[14] So let’s give it one more try.

[*Christ is risen. In him we rise!*]

[15] In his letter to the Romans, Paul talks about baptism.

He says this, “*We were [16] BURIED WITH HIM by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was [17] RAISED FROM THE DEAD by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in [18] NEWNESS OF LIFE*” (Romans 6:4).

God’s gift to us in baptism is an Easter gift.

It is the gift of resurrection.

Because of His resurrection we have arisen!

[19] And not just resurrection on the last day.

You see... God’s Easter gift to us is new life here and now.

It’s a new life in which God raises us above

all that is wrong with this world.

He raises us above guilt and shame, for Jesus left our sin in the tomb.

He raises us above selfishness and greed, for Jesus provides for all that we need.

He raises us above resentment and anger, for Jesus fills us with joy and peace.

Do you get it?

[20] Because of Easter, we need not live in shame.

Because of Easter we need not work so hard to serve ourselves.

Because of Easter we can forgive those who have sinned against us,

for Christ has forgiven our sin against him.

It’s called new life, and it’s what God gives you and me here again this day.

I don’t know what brought you to worship this morning.

Perhaps you've been here all Lent.

Or, perhaps you're here because someone in your family begged you to come.

Or maybe you're here simply because that's what you do on Easter Sunday.

Whatever the reason,

I want you to know and believe the good news of Jesus Christ.

I want you to find the peace and joy that God offers us in light of Jesus's resurrection.

I want you to believe, and to confess, this incredibly good news of the gospel.

[21] This morning we'll make it simple.

Just seven words

that change our lives forever.

[22] "Christ is risen! In him we rise!"

May God grant it for Jesus's sake—today and everyday!

[23] Yes! Christ is risen and we shall arise! Amen.

You know, that is so good. Let us sing it!

LSB 474 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! vs. 1, 4