

**Why Does Easter Matter**  
**A Celebration of Christ's Resurrection**  
Crossroads April 4, 2010

**Why Does Easter Matter:**

- **Scripture: *I Corinthians 15: 1-8***
- **Worship Set 1: *Easter / The Cross***  
*suggest: General Easter songs, When I survey, end with Looking at the Cross*

**Looking at the Cross:**

- **Discussion: *Why Did Jesus Need to Die?***
  - o What would be different if he had not died?
  - o How does his death affect my life on Monday morning?
- **Scripture: *Hebrews 9:22-30, II Corinthians 5:14-15, Galatians 2:20-21, II Timothy 2:11-13, Hebrews 2:9-18, I Peter 2:24-25***
- **Worship Set 2: *The Cross / The Resurrection***  
*suggest: How deep the Fathers Love, Easter songs on Resurrection*

**Looking at the Resurrection:**

- **Discussion: *Why Did Jesus Need to Rise?***
  - o What would be different if he had not risen?
  - o How does his resurrection affect my life on Monday morning?
- **Scripture: *John 11:25-26, Romans 1:4, 6:1-14, I Corinthians 15:12-28, Philippians 3:7-11, I Thessalonians 4:13-14, I Peter 1:3-5***
- **Reading: *Because He Live* (1<sup>st</sup> verse, chorus)**
- **Video: *Jesus is Alive* (SermonSpice video)**
- **Worship Set 3: *The Resurrection / Application / Second coming***  
*suggest: Worthy is the Lamb (iWorship), Mighty to Save (iWorship)*

**Looking at the Ascension:**

- **Discussion: *Why Did Jesus Need to Ascend?***
  - o What would be different if he had not ascended?
  - o How does his ascension affect my life on Monday morning?
- **Scripture: *Mathew 28:16-20, John 14:1-3, 16:7-11, Acts 2:34-36, Ephesians 1:19-23***
- **Closing Worship: *The Resurrection***  
*suggest: In Christ Alone (iWorship), Easter Celebration Songs*

## **Why Does Easter Matter**

Scripture Texts (NIV)

### **Why Does Easter Matter?** I Corinthians 15: 1-8

<sup>1</sup>Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup>By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup>and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

**Looking at the Cross:** Hebrews 9:22-30, II Corinthians 5:14-15, Galatians 2:20-21, II Timothy 2:11-13, Hebrews 2:9-18, I Peter 2:24-25

### **Hebrews 9:22-30 (New International Version)**

<sup>22</sup>In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

<sup>23</sup>It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. <sup>24</sup>For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. <sup>25</sup>Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. <sup>26</sup>Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup>Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

*{comments on Substitutionary Atonement}*

### **Galatians 2:20-21 (New International Version)**

<sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup>I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

*{note law can not save, also personal identification with Christ's death}*

### **2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (New International Version)**

<sup>14</sup>For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

<sup>15</sup>And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

## **2 Timothy 2:11-13 (New International Version)**

<sup>11</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him,  
we will also live with him;

<sup>12</sup>if we endure,  
we will also reign with him.

If we disown him,  
he will also disown us;

<sup>13</sup>if we are faithless,  
he will remain faithful,  
for he cannot disown himself.

*{note need to die to be raised, need to have faith in Christ's death for our sins and not deny Christ}*

## **Hebrews 2:9-18 (New International Version)**

<sup>9</sup>But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup>In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup>Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. <sup>12</sup>He says,

"I will declare your name to my brothers;

in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>13</sup>And again,

"I will put my trust in him."<sup>[b]</sup> And again he says,

"Here am I, and the children God has given me."<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>14</sup>Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup>For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for<sup>[d]</sup> the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

*{note in his death we see his humanity – he identified with and suffered for us, as one of us}*

*{last verse is a summary}*

## **1 Peter 2:24-25 (New International Version)**

<sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

*{use Passover example – need to be personal – call today is you have gone astray, can not gain forgiveness any other way except with blood and death – so return to Christ who knows and understands you and who died for forgiveness of your sins}*

## **Looking at the Resurrection:**

John 11:25-26, Romans 1:4, 6:1-14, I Corinthians 15:12-28,  
Philippians 3:7-11, I Thessalonians 4:13-14, I Peter 1:3-5

### **John 11:25-26 (New International Version)**

<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup>and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

*{Jesus says he is resurrection, and promises life, eternal life}*

### **Romans 1:4 (New International Version)**

<sup>4</sup>and who through the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God<sup>[b]</sup> by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

*{Paul sees the resurrection as Jesus proclaim self Lord – if not raise, not Lord, not even true prophet since he predicted his resurrection ... note also only God can raise self from dead!}*

### **Romans 6:1-14 (New International Version)**

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup>By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup>Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

<sup>5</sup>If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. <sup>6</sup>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with,<sup>[a]</sup> that we should no longer be slaves to sin— <sup>7</sup>because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

<sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup>Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup>Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

*{United with Christ – death and resurrection – resurrection not just judgment on sin but resurrection shows conquer sin and death and Satan – and now so can we!}*

### **1 Corinthians 15:12-28 (New International Version)**

<sup>12</sup>But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. <sup>15</sup>More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup>If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

<sup>20</sup>But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then,

when he comes, those who belong to him. <sup>24</sup>Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For he "has put everything under his feet."<sup>[a]</sup> Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. <sup>28</sup>When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

*{without resurrection faith is futile!}*

### **Philippians 3:7-11 (New International Version)**

<sup>7</sup>But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. <sup>10</sup>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, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

*{righteousness and power in us – example of empty glass, full glass}*

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (New International Version)**

<sup>13</sup>Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

### **1 Peter 1:3-5 (New International Version)**

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

*{Inheritance – eternal life – guaranteed through resurrection! We will rise to}*

{apply – repent and believe the good news – saved from sin – to eternal life – which starts now!}

**Looking at the Ascension:** Mathew 28:16-20, John 14:1-3, 16:7-11, Acts 2:34-36, Ephesians 1:19-23

**Matthew 28:16-20 (New International Version)**

<sup>16</sup>Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in<sup>[a]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

*{his authority goes with us}*

**John 16:7-11 (New International Version)**

<sup>7</sup>But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt<sup>[a]</sup> in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

*{Holy Spirit now in us!}*

**John 14:1-3 (New International Version)**

<sup>1</sup>"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God<sup>[a]</sup>; trust also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

*{Place being prepared for us}*

**Acts 2:34-36 (New International Version)**

<sup>34</sup>For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand

<sup>35</sup>until I make your enemies

a footstool for your feet."<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>36</sup>"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

{Christ is now declared Lord over all}

**Ephesians 1:19-23 (New International Version)**

<sup>19</sup>and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup>which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

{We are seated with him – Eph. 2 - and we have power of resurrection in us!}

{application – Come to Christ and then live out of that power this week!}