

# EASTER SUNDAY!!!

## PASTOR LEE

### 4/20/25

- Pastor Lee: HAPPY EASTER....HE HAS RISEN!!!!
- This is what it is all about at ChristFirst....Jesus' Resurrection is our core foundation!!!
- We celebrate!...Jesus coming out of that grave...alive...victorious over death and sin, so that we could have life! Thank you Jesus
- On Friday night, we were overwhelmed while we reflected on His sacrifice for us...assuming our sins unto Himself. We prayed over people who came forward...people facing challenges that have come out over the curse of sin....a curse that all humanity faces. The results of sin and death are all around us. But that death has been destroyed and we rejoice!

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*1 Cor 15:3-4 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins accordance with the Scriptures, (4) that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve.*

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- Today, we celebrate the day of first/most importance in all of history!
  - And take serious note: the act of crucifixion was the absolute worst form of execution ever conceived by mankind and was FINAL.....always.
  - Christ's enemies proffered that the body was stolen...nonsensical....and the disciples would obviously not participate in a lie that would undoubtedly, lead them to their death.
  - Conversely, understanding the tomb's security and seeing it empty themselves - - engendered tremendous passion- -they knew what they saw was a resurrection!
  - And the first witnesses were *women*....not something you would...in those times...ever lie about or make up...at a time when women tended to be culturally regarded, solely by their gender, as less credible.
  - Many people witnessed the resurrected Jesus....spreading the message far and wide over time and even to today as we gather to mark this historically unique (mind-boggling), live-changing occasion.
  - When Paul says all this was in accordance with the Scriptures, the people he was writing to were quite familiar with King David and his prophesies around the Resurrection and understood. (Psalm 16:10) Peter repeats this to an audience- -see below:

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*Acts 2:27-31 - For You will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption (28) You have made know to me the paths of life; You will make me fill of gladness with Your presence. (29) "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the Patriarch David that He both died and was buried and His tomb is with us to this day. (30) Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, (31) he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of*

*the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.*

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- **David is dead....in a tomb....but Jesus...deserted by his friends....betrayed by one of them....mocked...scourged...whose clothes were divided....hung on a cross between two common criminals.... crucified...died....and whose body was, through the good will of a secret follower, prepared and placed in a grave...completely sealed...with Roman soldiers guarding the site with their lives.....notwithstanding, *three days later, JESUS COMES OUT ALIVE!***

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*Luke 24:1-12- -But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. (2) And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, (3) but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. (4) While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. (5) And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? (6) He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while He was still in Galilee, (7) that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." (8) And they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. (10) Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, (11) but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. (12) But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.*

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- **The women were going to the site to anoint the body of a dead man- -or so they thought- -instead...stone rolled away....body is gone.....angel asks (incredulously)...'why hunting in grave yard for a guy thats alive'? Nonsensical....He is Risen...He beats death! Like David had prophesied!**
  - **Relating it to humanity's connection with God: It changed the lives...at that time, of those who witnessed and/or were otherwise informed of His Resurrection...as well, it changed the lives of all who believe(d) since that time and including us today! Whether we all have it now or not, everyone- -ourselves, our family, and others- - all need the 'resurrection life'.**

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*Acts 2:32-37- - This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. (33) Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. (34) For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, " 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, (35) until I make your enemies your footstool.' (36) Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you*

*crucified.” (37) Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” (38) And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

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- **(V-37) They were ‘cut to the heart’ (!!)...when we contemplate that Jesus hung and died on the Cross....taking on *all* of our sins and placing *all* of His righteousness onto us...we are similarly ‘cut to the heart’....it’s simply amazing and almost unfathomable!**
  - **Having touched our hearts so profoundly by this momentous, singular event., our ‘want’ to be closer to God increases exponentially.....but how?**
  - **(V38) Peter says: ‘repent and be baptized’. So let’s all...as we seek a (closer) connection with HIM...as Peter said then: ‘repent and be baptized’! Accept His forgiveness! Through His Grace.....undeserved...unearned...a blessed gift for you! Accept His perfect love and sacrifice!**
  - \* **Pastor Rob introduces Trevor who, a year ago, placed his faith in Jesus and was baptized just a few weeks ago. Trevor testifies about his spiritual journey and the profound change in his life and in his purpose since accepting Jesus and, in doing so, connecting with Him. He points to a passage that particularly resonated with him....John 20:29 (re: “doubting Thomas”)...in which, Trevor testifies, “removed the scales from my eyes” and opened his heart in belief. Concerning Baptism, he spoke of the special and connective symbolism of publicly declaring his faith in - and love of - Christ (as He loves us!!!).**

**HE HAS RISEN!!!**

