

## Opening Reflections for Committees: April 2017

Witness and Fellowship Ministry Team

### The Resurrection of our Lord

*But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples--and Peter--that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." (Mark 16:6-7)*

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Death has fallen. The kingdom of Satan is cast down. Sins have been buried forever. Life from death. A new creation. This is Easter, the Resurrection of Our Lord. What's it all about? Listen to the preaching of the "young man in a long, white robe" who was at the tomb.

The first part of the sermon: Who Jesus is and what He did. He is Jesus the Christ from Nazareth who was crucified. He was buried here. But He is not here anymore because He is risen! This sermon declares that Jesus was dead, buried, and rose again. This sermon proclaims the Good News that the horrific events of Good Friday have turned into the unexpected and awesome events of Easter Sunday. Jesus died. Jesus rose from the dead.

But there's more! Where is He? "He's going to Galilee just as He told you." Not just who He is. Not just what He did. But also where He is. Where they can find Him. Where the Savior who died and rose will be for them.

Fast forward to today. Same story. A man in a white robe--telling you the Good News of Jesus. He died on a cross. For you. In your place. He rose again. Like He said He would. Empty tomb. Stone rolled away.

Your pastor also tells you where He is. This time not in Galilee but here in His church. Font. Altar. Pulpit. Water. Word. Body and Blood. For in those gifts, the Jesus who died and rose is right there for you, just as He said. And since He has said it, it's true beyond a doubt.

Your sorrows turned into joys. Your sins buried. Your death defeated. You: a new creation with new and everlasting life. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Prayer:** We implore you, Almighty and merciful God, cause us who celebrate Your Pascal Feast, kindled with heavenly desires, ever to thirst for the Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ. Amen