

The Resurrection of our Lord / April 20, 2025

1 Corinthians 15:22

"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."

As in Adam all die. In Christ all are made alive

A blessed Easter morning. We gather today to remember the death of Jesus for our sins and to celebrate His resurrection for our salvation. Paul began the fifteenth chapter of Corinthians by connecting the resurrection with the essence of the gospel message, salvation by God's grace in Christ Jesus. He said, *"I would remind you of the gospel I preached to you...by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you."* He delivered to them of utmost importance four things. First that Christ died for our sin. Second that He was buried. Third that He rose on the third day. Fourth that He appeared alive to the apostles in the days following and later to Paul. Some in the Corinthian congregation had doubts about the resurrection. They denied it, or spiritualized it, so it was not a bodily resurrection. Jesus' resurrection is so important that Paul said if it didn't really happen bodily, we are to be pitied more than all humans. If Christ did not rise in His body, we have no hope and no forgiveness. We have, forgiveness and the assurance of our own resurrection to eternal life for as Paul said, *"Christ has indeed been raised from the dead the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."*

Christ died for our sins. His resurrection shows God accepted His sacrifice and that in Him we have forgiveness. Jesus said, *"I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me."* Jesus' resurrection shows that His words are true and that He is the only way we come to the Father. He is the way and all who come to the Father through Him have the certainty of salvation in Him. Jesus' resurrection shows that He truly is the Son of God and not simply a human prophet. In the past God spoke to us through the prophets. In these last days He has spoken to us through His Son. Jesus' resurrection is the Father's testimony that He is His beloved Son, with whom He is well pleased and to whom we must listen. We listen to Him, because He has the words of eternal life. We listen to Him, because He is the Word of Life. Jesus' resurrection is God's assurance that those who sleep in Christ will awaken and rise to eternal life when He returns to make all things new. Jesus' resurrection shows He is the resurrection and the life and that everyone who believes in Him will live, even though they die. Since we believe Jesus died and rose again, we believe that through Jesus, God will call those

who sleep in Him to rise again. As Paul said in our text: In Adam all die. In Christ all are made alive.

Death is part of life as we know it. Death was not part of life as God created it. God created two forms of life to be deathless in terms of their existence; angels and humans. Death came to angels and humans when they turned away from God in disobedience. The angels who rebelled against God died immediately in their relationship with Him and were cast from His presence. They continue to have existence, but rather than life, it is a dark, futile and hopeless existence. There is no real life apart from God, only a hellish existence. Death came to the first people when they sinned. They died in their spirits in relationship to God and to each other. Eventually they died physically. Their breath returned to God who gave it. Their bodies returned to the earth from which God formed and fashioned them. Death comes to all their descendants, for all who descend from them are conceived and born in a broken relationship with the Creator. One of the foundational teachings of scripture is the association of death with sin. The wages of sin is death. Death comes to everyone for everyone falls short of the righteousness of God. In Adam all die.

Unlike the fallen angels who have no hope of life in their death, God gave humans the promise of a Redeemer who would lift from our heads the condemnation of death. God gave hope for the restoration of relationship with Him through the Redeemer's triumph over the serpent who led them into sin. The Lord promised that one of the woman's offspring would crush the head of the serpent who deceived her. That offspring is Jesus Christ our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of woman in time. He is begotten of the Father from eternity. He came to redeem the human race from its bondage to sin, enslavement to the devil and to lift from our heads the condemnation of death, which in its essence is eternal existence apart from God. We see death primarily as physical event. Death is first and foremost a spiritual reality. Spiritual death means to be without God and without hope in time and for eternity. Paul rejoiced that the Gentile converts to Christianity were redeemed from a hopeless existence without God and had been made alive in Christ Jesus to a real and living hope. That real and living hope is an eternal relationship with God, sharing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That hope begins in time through faith in Jesus. It continues forever through His resurrection. In Adam all die. In Christ all are made alive again.

All who believe in Christ are made alive in Christ. To be alive we need to be in Christ. In Him we live and move and have our being. He is the source of our life with the heavenly Father. To be alive with God we need to know Christ as our Redeemer and believe in Him as our God and Saviour. In His life, Jesus represented the whole human race in fulfillment of the law. In our place and in place of every human soul, He lived a sinless life. In our place and for the sake of every human soul, He received the condemnation of sin by offering Himself into death on the cross. He atoned for the sin of Adam and the sin of the world. He atoned for the sin of you and me. He calls us now through the gospel to receive Him into our hearts as Saviour and to confess Him with our mouths as Lord. He calls us to share in His victory over sin, death and the devil by receiving baptism into His death and resurrection. Through the word and by the washing of baptism, the Holy Spirit incorporates us into the body of Christ, makes His dwelling within our hearts, empowers us to live in Christ and promises us a share in Christ's resurrection, when He returns and makes all things new. In Christ, all are made alive again!

All who receive Christ are made alive with God. God wants everyone to receive Christ and be made alive in relationship with Him, in time and for eternity. God did not create us to die. God created us to live in harmony with Him and with each other. God wants us to have life with Him in time and for eternity. For that purpose, He gave Jesus, His Son begotten from eternity, born a human being in time, to redeem us from sin and death and restore us to the fulness of relationship with Him. God calls us to receive life in Christ now, by believing in His Name. God empowers us to live with Him and each other now in Christ through the hearing of the gospel and faith in Jesus' Name. For that purpose, God nourishes our faith, sustains and empowers our life in Christ through the word and sacraments; the washing of baptism and the nourishment of Holy Communion. He calls us to drink deeply and eat fully the nourishment He provides our spirits in the word, the water, the bread and the wine. He gave Christ for our life. He gives Christ that we may have life. He nourishes our faith so that we remain faithful to Christ, until His return; when with all believers, we will receive the fulness of life in our share of the resurrection of Christ. In Adam all die. All who are in Christ are made alive in time and for eternity.

The Lord who raised from dead our Saviour Jesus, open our hearts by His Spirit through the gospel that we continue steadfast in faith until the day of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. By one man came sin and

death. By the man Jesus Christ comes forgiveness and life. Praise His Holy Name.
Amen