

# The Evangel



April 2017



April 13 6:30 PM  
Maundy Thursday Communion  
Service

April 14 7:00 PM  
Good Friday Service

April 16 10:30 AM  
Resurrection Celebration

April 16 12:00 PM  
Easter "Come and Share" Dinner

## The Resurrection of Jesus and the Hope of You

We often talk about the resurrection of Jesus noting that this single event is a pivotal component of the Christian faith. But we don't talk enough, I think, about the resurrection and personal faith. The resurrection of Jesus represents a promise that puts every moment of our daily lives in this world into an eternal perspective and is worth considering carefully.

Jesus Christ died on a cross. Though the Roman soldiers were the mechanism of His death and the Jewish mob the motivators of His death, the mastermind of His death was God Himself. God sent His Son Jesus to take on human form, to live the sinless life of faith and love we were created to live, and to offer Himself to death on the cross on behalf of every sinful person who ever has or ever will live.

Jesus died the death we all deserve, but He did not die a death HE deserved. Sinless and innocent He did not deserve death is the wages of sin. The wages of obedience and love are life, not death. Jesus deserved life, but for us He suffered death. He suffered separation of his soul from His body (physical death) and separation of His self from God (spiritual death, as evidenced in the words, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")

Jesus suffered death in the same way human beings suffer death and for the same reason: sin. However, the sin for which

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## Care Center Service

Cornerstone's next opportunity to serve the Lord in worship with the residents of the North Shore Care Center will be Sunday April 2, 2017 at 12:45 PM. Singing, prayer, and a simple gospel message derived from some familiar object comprise the time we share together with these lovely folks. Please join us as we worship the Lord together with those who are not able to leave the residence.

Due to continuing hospital renovations, you'll need to enter the building through the main Clinic entrance and follow the signs down the new hallways.

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He died was NOT His own! Jesus suffered the death my sins deserve, and your sins deserve, but he had no sins of His own for which death was required.

We know that Jesus had no sins deserving death for two reasons. First, God declared on several occasion in Jesus' life, including His baptism and His transfiguration, "this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Holiness, obedience, love, having the unobstructed character of God: these are what please the Father, and the Father was pleased with the Son. Had Jesus sinned the Father would have been restricted from declaring Christ "pleasing."

The second reason we know Jesus was without sin, the entire New Testament witness notwithstanding, is the fact of His resurrection from the dead. Jesus Christ was dead. He was buried. On the third day, he rose from the dead.

Now, we have to understand a couple things to appreciate what the resurrection of Jesus means. Jesus was not the first person to be raised from the dead. Jesus raised the son of the widow of Nain and Lazarus. Old Testament prophets had raised the dead to life again. The difference is that Jesus was raised from the dead and received a glorified body never to die again. Everyone else who was ever raised from the dead died again, but not Jesus. Jesus lives!

Why does Jesus live when everyone else who was raised just dies again later? They die in accordance with God's declaration, "It is given unto every man once to die and then the judgment." The process for sinful human beings is life, death, judgment. The process, however, for the one sinless life in all human history (Jesus) is life, death, life forever without death ever again. The just and right response of God to a sinless life, by His own determination, is eternal life.

Let's bring this home to roost. When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, as the response to God's electing and saving grace, God accepts Jesus' death as the one we deserve, he forgives our sin, thus canceling the judgment against us, and gives us the benefit of Christ's sinless life (in spite of our sinfulness): eternal life! On account of Christ and through faith in Him, God will grant to all who

believe a resurrection of the body to glory and eternal life.

On account of faith in Jesus, God treats us like He treated His righteous Son, with life! How important it is, then, not only for life now, but for life after death, that we trust in Jesus and put our faith completely in Him. It is on account of Jesus alone that God saves and glorifies and redeems and gives eternal life to human beings. It is not on account of any action, interest, attitude, or value on our part. It is all of Him, to the praise of His glory.

Because Christ was raised from the dead by the power of the Spirit according to the will of God on account of a sinless life, we who believe in Him have the hope of eternal life.

This is what the celebration of the resurrection is all about. Not bunnies and baby chicks and springtime. It is about death and life and sin and forgiveness and eternity. Trust Christ today and ask God for forgiveness. Confess your sins and repent and receive from God eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ  
the Lord  
Is Risen  
Today!

