

Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Morning 8:45 am Service
Text: Luke 24:1-12

Pastor Tim Eighmy

“The Greatest Love Story of All”

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Risen Savior,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

All great love stories are filled with heartache, betrayal, grief, and doubt. They are also filled with joy, peace, and hope for a better future and a more meaningful life.

Today, we are celebrating the greatest love story of all—the love of God for all humanity through our Lord, Christ Jesus.

The story is about the chaotic relationship between God and humanity. God loves us fully. We don't love God, other people, our environment, or even ourselves fully.

God wants to be in a loving, growing relationship with us for all eternity and for us to be servants of one another. In contrast, we are trying to figure out what good relationships are!

So what is a God to do? Rather than waiting for us to come to him, God comes to us. God enters into our human reality through Jesus. God takes on our sins and enters into our weakness and mortality. God experiences heartache, loneliness, suffering, and despair. God enters into our humiliation and becomes a victim of abuse and torture; of betrayal and rejection; of evil corruption and death itself.

From the midst of all of that, God brings out the best of what God intends us to be through Christ's resurrection. We are people of faith, love, and hope. People who experience God's grace every day. We are people who make a positive influence upon the lives of others and upon our world. We are growing in faith, hope, and love for God as well. It is a new nature that we are given through the certainty of God's love.

This is a truly happy ending to this love story, but this happy ending is only the beginning.

When the women went to the tomb early on that first Easter morning, they expected to find the corpse of Jesus and see the emptiness of life in his eyes and in his body. They expected to see the terrible wounds of the crucifixion look even more horrible from the beginning of the decay of death.

I'm sure their hearts felt as empty of the life that they expected not to see. They didn't feel rested or at peace now that the terrible Passover Sabbath day had ended. I'm sure that they and even the disciples were wondering where God was in all of this despair.

But instead, the women found the tomb empty. It was empty of death. It was filled with the living light of God radiating from two men who were very much alive and joyfully announcing that Jesus is alive.

“Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is risen.” Just like he said he would be.

Jesus loves you just like he said he would. Jesus is with you just as he said he would. Jesus brings the salvation of God to our lives just as he said he would.

So what are you looking for? What are you waiting for? Start living this new life of love that God has given you. And tell others about it.

When the women told the men about what they saw and heard, the men didn't believe it. They too were looking for death and destruction more than the love and life that God gives.

Peter went to investigate and found the tomb empty and the burial cloths lying there. If somebody moved Jesus' body, they would have taken him with the burial cloths. But there they were lying on the

floor of the tomb. Just like someone in our culture would lay their napkin down at the dinner table to indicate that they were finished.

Then Peter believed and was amazed.

That's what the new life of Christ does for us. It makes us believers in God's love. It makes us participate in God's love. In Christ, we know that our baptism in Christ's love is not finished. In Christ, we know that our communion in Christ's love is never finished.

This is a love story of between God and us and all humanity. Our happy ending is just the beginning.

Amen.