

Resurrection of Our Lord C, 2010

Text: Luke 24:1-12

Title: Looking for Life

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The angels asked a good question. “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”

That same question comes around to you today, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”

Where do you look for life? What is the source of your life, your joy, your happiness?

Too often, we look for life among the dead and dying things of this world. We spend our time in the tombs and cemeteries. Too often, we look for life in a place where we will only find death.

If you look for life in the pleasures of wealth and material success, you will find only death. You will find your things rotten, rusty, and stolen, and unable to satisfy you. Either you will outlive your wealth, or your wealth will outlive you, but either way, you don't get to keep it. You can't take it with you.

If you look for life in the natural world, you will find only death. You will find that nature is cruel and uncaring, and the beauty there quickly fades. As much as we enjoy God's creation, we find there the same death and disease that is in our homes and our lives.

If you look for life in the joys of friendship, you will find only death. Your friends will abandon you at some times and be unable to help in others. As close as you are with your friends, one day you will be separated by distance or by death.

If you look for life in your family, you will find only death. Your family will disappoint you and let you down. Your family will also move away and eventually pass on.

If you look for life in yourself, you will find only death. Your physical strength will fail. Your knowledge will fail. Your ability to do good will fail. You are sinful, and the wages of sin is death.

In all of these things we will find only death- in our possession, in nature, in our friends and family, and even in ourselves.

Death has invaded our world, infesting every corner. From Adam and Eve until today, everything in our world has been touched by death. Through Adam death entered the world, and there has been no stopping it.

Until Friday. On Friday afternoon death and God did battle.

From all appearances, death was the victor. It looked like death had won. God hung dead upon the cross. Everyone cried. And Jesus' lifeless body was laid to rest in a borrowed tomb.

But this morning, the story is different. God is victorious. Death has lost. Death has been defeated. Death has died. Christ is risen just as He said. Life has conquered death.

That life now flows from Christ to you. Just as in Adam all die, in Christ all will be made alive.

The life of Christ flows through the font, it flows through the gospel, it flows through His body and blood.

In moments you will receive the resurrected body and blood of Jesus. The same body and blood that conquered death are now given to you, to strengthen you in body and soul to life everlasting.

Apart from Christ there is only death. Connected to Christ, there is life.

The life that Christ gives is not just something you get when you're in heaven. Christ infuses His life into the dead and dying things of this world, bringing them back to life. Apart from Christ they are dead and dying. Connected to Christ they are alive.

Your dying body is infused with Christ's life. He makes every part of you alive and an instrument of His life. Your lips are alive to sing His praises. Your ears are alive to listen to His word. Your eyes are alive to see those in need. Your hands are alive to bring them His life. Your feet are alive to carry you to spread the good news.

Your dying family is infused with Christ's life. His life flows from husband to wife to kids and grandkids in the words of love and forgiveness He has given you. Even when you are separated by time and space, you are connected to Christ's body and share in His life.

Your dying friendships are infused with Christ's life. Your friends are not folks to serve your needs, but opportunities for you to bring life and hope into their lives.

The dying world around you is infused with Christ's life. All creation is groaning and waiting for Christ's return, when He will transform this world into the new heavens and the earth, Eden again, only better. Wolves and lambs and lions eating and playing together once more.

And even your dying wealth is infused with Christ's life. God lets you share in the joy of bringing life to other folks, and does so through your gifts and offerings. Your wealth is there to put to use in bringing life to those still trapped and dying.

The Easter life infuses every aspect of your being. You are new, you are recreated, you are alive.

We experience this life only in part now. Death is still holding on, and so we wait for Christ's return when death will die completely. His life sustains us. His life will carry us through until we are all living in the deathless city of God, Easter forever!

Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!