

How Can I Know Jesus Rose From The Dead?

April 1, 2018

Welcome to CrossWinds Church at the Sami Center! Jesus has risen! He is alive! Isn't that great news?

If you are a visitor, my name is Kurt. It is great to have you this morning as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the grave.

Sadly, many people do not know about Jesus' resurrection of the dead. Nobody told has told them that Jesus rose from the dead and what good news that means for you and me.

There is also another group of people. They know about the resurrection but deep in their hearts, they struggle to believe that Jesus literally rose. We live in a world of computers, smartphones, and the Internet. Life is very scientific. Most of what we handle on a daily basis is supported by verifiable data.

The idea of somebody coming to life from the grave by the power of God feels more like fantasy than fact. It feels more like the story line of a Marvel movie than truth you can base your life on. This morning, perhaps you feel that way. You want to believe Jesus rose from the dead and have rock-solid confidence that Jesus rose, but it sounds too wonderful to believe. It doesn't feel verifiable. You need some hard facts to help you believe.

If that is you, this morning will be a help. We are going to look at 10 supporting facts behind the resurrection. These facts will help us know for sure that Jesus is alive.

The apostle Paul tells us it is good for us to do this study. He knew having confidence that Jesus rose is exceedingly important for our faith because the resurrection of Jesus is the linchpin of our faith.

And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:14 (ESV)

If Jesus did not rise from the dead, the entire Christian faith is a lie. Jesus worked miracles, but our faith is not founded on his miracles. Jesus was a great teacher, but our faith ultimately doesn't rest on his teaching. Jesus was a great servant, but our faith does not ultimately rest on the example of Jesus' life. Jesus died on a cross, but our faith is not based on his death on the cross. On the same day Jesus died, two other men died right next to him. Nobody followed them after their deaths. Ultimately, the entire Christian faith stands or falls on the literalness of Jesus's resurrection from the dead. Jesus rose with a flesh-and-blood body similar in many ways to the one you and I have today. Paul said this:

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV)

If Christ did not literally rise from the dead it would be the ultimate April Fool's joke on the world.

Thankfully, there is very solid evidence to substantiate the truth of Jesus' resurrection.

Thomas Arnold, professor of modern history at Oxford, says this about Jesus' resurrection.

"No one fact in the history of mankind... is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort" than the fact that "Christ died and rose from the dead."

Let's jump into our study of some of the evidence that supports Jesus' resurrection. Along the way, we are going to answer many of the objections to the resurrection that people hold. My hope is that at the end of our study, your confidence in Jesus rising from the dead is strengthened.

1. Jesus' resurrection was prophetically anticipated in the Old Testament.

The resurrection of Jesus was not a completely unexpected event. Many times Old Testament prophets spoke with great detail about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus long before it happened. One of the most famous passages in the Old Testament that speaks about Jesus' life, death and resurrection is Isaiah 52 and 53. Isaiah wrote prophetically 700 years before Jesus was born. These two chapters provide so many prophetic details about the life of Jesus that they are sometimes called the Gospels of the Old Testament. They prophetically describe Jesus' virgin birth, his betrayal for 30 pieces of silver, his death, his crucifixion between two thieves, his burial in a rich man's tomb, and ultimately, his resurrection from the dead. All this, 700 years before Jesus arrived.

Let's look at one verse in Isaiah 53 that prophetically describes Jesus' death and resurrection.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Isaiah 53:10 (ESV)

The first part of the verse tells us it was God the Father's will for Jesus to die. He would suffer grief. Then it tells us he would be an offering for guilt. In the Old Testament, the guilt offerings were killed. Jesus as a guilt offering was different. The next part of the verse tells us Jesus would see his offspring —

those who would follow him — and prolong his days. He would live for a long, long time.

How does a dead guilt offering live to see his offspring and live a lengthy life? The only way is Jesus would come back from the dead.

Let me show you another example. Psalm 16 also prophecies about Jesus' resurrection. The Psalm was prophetically written by King David. In the Psalm, he talks about how God does not abandon those he loves in their day of trouble. There is a line in the Psalm that doesn't make sense about David.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.
Psalm 16:10 (ESV)

Sheol is another word for the grave. David said God would not abandon his chosen ones to the grave in their day of trouble and the holy one of God would not even see corruption. Who is the holy one of God who when he dies will not be in the grave to have his body rot?

He was prophetically speaking about Jesus.

My point is that if the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus' life, such as his betrayal for 30 pieces of silver and his crucifixion between two thieves, were accurate, why wouldn't the prophecies about his resurrection from the dead also be accurate? If the prophecies about Jesus' life and death were accurate, it is reasonable to accept the prophecies about Jesus' resurrection from the dead would also be accurate.

2. Jesus predicted his resurrection from the dead.

Many times Jesus told his disciples he would die and after three days rise from the dead. He spoke about his death and resurrection while he was still living. Let me show you an example.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. Mark 8:31 (ESV)

If we trust Jesus as a good teacher when it comes to the things he said and did in his life, it is reasonable to conclude we should also trust what he said when it came to his resurrection from the dead. If he lied about his coming resurrection, he is either a liar of the worst degree or a lunatic unworthy of our attention. We should avoid everything he said.

3. Jesus died. He didn't simply pass out.

As you study the resurrection of Jesus, you will learn some Muslims believe Jesus only passed out on the cross. There are many people who claimed to be academics in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries who also believe Jesus didn't actually die on the cross. They claim he just passed out on the cross. In the cool of the tomb, he was refreshed, shook off the grave clothes, rolled away the stone and escaped into the night. If you want to look this up on the Internet, it is called the swoon theory.

At first, this sounds like a credible idea. Maybe Jesus simply passed out and they thought he was dead. When you press this a bit, it falls apart.

Last week, we studied the crucifixion. We learned Jesus was scourged before he was crucified. A Roman scourging was so brutal some people didn't survive the punishment. After his scourging, Jesus was crucified. Crucifixion was

created to be one of the most barbaric and effective deaths conceived of by man. Nobody survived crucifixion. Jesus was executed by a professional Roman executioner. The executioner killed people every day. Death was his specialty. He was good at his job. If he failed at his job, he would be the next one to die so he made sure he did his job well.

To ensure Jesus was dead, the executioner shoved a spear into Jesus' side, piercing his heart sac, putting a hole in Jesus' heart. If you weren't dead, you would be dead when you had a hole in your heart. The Bible tells us there was a sudden flow of blood and water from Jesus' side. The reason for this is because he was already dead. The blood and serum had separated. Jesus was then laid in a tomb and wrapped in 75 pounds of spices and strips of cloth. Jesus was dead. It is worth noting that nobody in the first century claimed Jesus passed out on the cross and revived in the cool of the tomb. People who lived at a time when crucifixions took place would have seen that idea as preposterous.

Even if Jesus had survived the crucifixion, how would he escape the grave clothes but leave them intact? How would he singlehandedly roll the stone away from the tomb, a stone that weighed between one and two tons? How would he escape without alerting the Roman guard?

The idea that Jesus simply passed out on the cross first surfaced in the 18th century by rationalist academics whose purpose was to explain away the miracles in the Bible and the miracle of Jesus' resurrection. If you understand crucifixion, you would realize that passing out on the cross or faking your death on the cross is ludicrous.

In addition, the Bible tells us Jesus wasn't resuscitated back to his old life. He was resurrected to a completely new life. After three days of death, Jesus wasn't just given back his old physical life. The Bible tells us his old body was supernaturally transformed into a new resurrection body. It was just like our bodies but it was different and improved. It was a body free of pain. It was a body not full of weakness but full of power. It was a body not known for tiredness but energy. It was a body that would last forever. It was the prototype resurrection body, not a resuscitated flesh-and-blood body.

Jesus didn't just pass out. He literally died. He also literally came back to life after he died but his body was resurrected a body, not a resuscitated old body.

4. Jesus was buried in a tomb that was easy to find.

Another common argument used against the claim that Jesus rose from the dead is some people claim the early Christians found the wrong tomb on that first resurrection morning. They went to an empty grave instead of the one Jesus was still occupying. If you have been in a cemetery, you know how hard it can be to find the right grave. They claim the resurrection was based on a simple misunderstanding of the tomb's location.

Think this through. First, we know Jesus wasn't put in an obscure tomb. His body was placed in the borrowed tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. He was a rich man. Have you been to the cemetery lately? Do rich people have obscure tombstones or large easy-to-find tombstones? They have large tombstones.

Joseph of Arimathea's tomb was not obscure. It was prominent. It would have been one of the easiest tombs to find in the cemetery. The idea that the

women simply went to the wrong tomb on that first Easter morning is preposterous.

Second, it was the only tomb in the entire cemetery guarded by soldiers. When the priests asked Pilate to have the tomb guarded by soldiers, they made sure the grave was easily identifiable. I am sure it was the only grave in the entire cemetery guarded by soldiers.

Third, if the resurrection was a myth based on people finding the wrong tomb, all people needed to do was find the right tomb, bring Jesus' dead body out of the tomb and carry it through the streets of Jerusalem saying, "He looks pretty dead to me! You said there was no body. I have a body and it is a dead body." That never happened because Jesus' body wasn't there.

5. The resurrected Jesus was not just seen. He was touched.

The Jehovah's Witnesses began in 1872. One of their beliefs is that Jesus did not literally rise from the dead. They claim he only rose spiritually. There is a serious problem with that claim. It doesn't agree with the facts.

If Jesus was a ghost and he only rose spiritually, why is the Bible adamant that Jesus had a literal flesh-and-blood body after he rose from the dead that people touched? We read about the disciples clinging to the feet of Jesus' resurrected body in Matthew 28:9. You can't cling to the feet of a ghost. Mary clung to him in John 20:17. You can't hold a ghost. Thomas, the doubter, put his hands into the spear hole in Jesus' side in John 20:20-28. If Jesus wasn't literally there, the disciples, Mary and Thomas couldn't touch him. Look how Jesus proved his resurrection was literal, not just spiritual.

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. Luke 24:36–43 (ESV)

Three other passages in the Bible record instances of Jesus eating with his disciples (Luke 24:30, John 21:12-13, and the marginal reading of Acts 1:4). When Jesus rose from the dead, there was never a question in people's minds about Jesus being literally alive in the flesh or being a ghost. Lots of people held him and touched him. Look what Paul said about this in 1 Corinthians 15.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 (ESV)

Paul said lots of people saw Jesus risen from the dead. They touched Jesus. They ate with Jesus. They talked with Jesus. Paul said, "If there is any doubt that Jesus is literally and physically alive, the witnesses are still alive. Text them. Email them. Get them on FaceTime or visit them yourself."

There are more witnesses to the resurrection than just the ones Paul mentioned. There were many witnesses. Working through the Bible, I counted 12 occurrences of the resurrected Jesus appearing to people. In four of those appearances, Jesus appeared to only one person, like Paul on the road to Damascus. Since there was only one witness, some people may discount him.

Two times Jesus appeared alive to two people at the same time, like Jesus on the Emmaus Road. Two people corroborating the same thing provides solid evidence of the truth. Jesus also appeared to seven people at one time. Now we have witnesses to the fact that Jesus was physically and literally alive and touched. We have another occurrence when Jesus appeared alive to 10 people at once.

When two, seven, or 10 or more people are all touching, talking and spending time with Jesus at different times and different situations, you can't claim that seeing Jesus was an illusion or wishful thinking.

Two times Jesus appeared to the 11 disciples at the same time. 1 Corinthians 15 says that once he appeared to more than 500 people at the same time. They touched him, had a conversation with him. He had lunch with them.

Those are not all the times the resurrected Jesus appeared to people, ate with people, talked with people and was touched by people. Those are just the ones recorded in the Bible. *The sheer volume of evidence places the burden of proof on those who want to deny that Jesus rose from the dead, not on those who are claiming he rose from the dead.*

6. Jesus' resurrection was recorded right after it occurred.

Another claim some people make about the resurrection of Jesus is that his resurrection was a legend developed hundreds of years after Jesus' death. They claim the legend of Jesus' resurrection was added to the story of Jesus' life hundreds of years after his death.

Under scrutiny, this also doesn't hold up. The first thing to realize is that historical claims of Jesus' resurrection from the dead don't begin showing up in

history hundreds of years after his life. They show up almost immediately after his death.

In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 Paul quoted one of the earliest church creeds. A creed is an agreed upon statement of what people in the early church believed.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures... 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (ESV)

The creed that Paul received is considered one of the earliest statements of what Christians believed to be in existence. Scholars have archaeologically dated this creed in other sources to around the year 36 A.D. This means we know Christians formally stated the resurrection of Jesus in written form between three and eight years after Jesus' death and resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus was not a mythical legend that developed hundreds of years after Jesus. The documents of history show the resurrection of Jesus was in a formally agreed upon church document three to eight years after Jesus' death.

7. Jesus' resurrection convinced his family that he was God.

I don't know what your family is like, but when our family is together, everybody lets their hair down. We act like ourselves, because at home, people see what you are really like.

Interestingly, Jesus' family worshipped him as God. That wouldn't happen in our house. At home, the sinfulness of our humanity is visible for all to see.

Interestingly, Jesus' family didn't worship him as God when he was first living, even when he worked miracles, healed people and fed thousands from a little boy's lunch. They saw him as a good man but not as the God man.

In John 3 we see Jesus' mother, brothers and sister came to take him home. When they heard some of the things he said about his identity, they thought he was a little nutty. Look what the apostle John said about Jesus' family.

For not even his brothers believed in him. John 7:5 (ESV)

Something happened to Jesus they couldn't explain after his death though. Something caused them to stop thinking he was a little nutty and begin worshipping him as God. What changed their minds? He rose from the dead.

After the resurrection, we find James, the half-brother of Jesus, worshipping Jesus as God. What would it take for you to worship your own half-brother as God? He would need to do something that only God could do, like rise from the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:7 tells us the resurrected Jesus paid a personal visit to his James, his half-brother. They talked. I am sure they hugged. Family always hugs. James was compelled by talking and touching his risen elder brother Jesus to believe he was God. There was no other explanation.

James went on to become one of the leaders in the church of Jerusalem. James wrote a book in our Bible, called the book of James. James was eventually killed by being thrown from the top of the temple in Jerusalem and then having a sledge hammer slammed into his skull. Why did he die this way? He wouldn't stop claiming Jesus, his elder half-brother, was literally alive and he was God. James knew it because he met Jesus after he rose from the dead. The resurrection changed everything.

The same is true with another half-brother of Jesus' named Jude. He also did not believe Jesus was God until Jesus rose from the dead. He went from thinking his half-brother was crazy to convinced that his half-brother was God

and deserving of our worship. The one event that changed Jude was meeting, touching and eating with the resurrected Jesus.

How about Jesus' mother, Mary? Acts 1:14 tells us she was part of the early church. She was at the cross. She saw Jesus die. Nobody fools Mom. Everyone knows you can't fool Mom. Mary was transformed from a devout Jew that worshipped God Old Testament-style to praying to her own son and worshipping her own son because she claimed he was God. What is the only possible explanation for this change? She met Jesus, held Jesus and talked with Jesus after the resurrection. She was compelled to believe Jesus is God based on the evidence of his life after his death.

You may be able to convince a stranger you are godly man, but you cannot convince your own mother and brothers and sisters that you are God who is a man unless you lived a perfect life then came back from the dead.

Remember, nobody in Jesus' family wanted to believe Jesus came back to life after death. They were forced to believe Jesus came back to life from the grave after talking with him.

8. Jesus' resurrection was confirmed by his most bitter enemies, like Paul.

The Bible tells us that even the most bitter enemies of Jesus were forced to believe Jesus was God in the flesh because of the resurrection. The most famous one in this list is Paul. Paul was a devout pharisee who gave himself to the extermination of Christians. His plan was to eradicate them from the face of the earth. Paul was the premier terrorist of his day.

The Bible tells us Paul's conversion story in Acts 9. He was on the road to Damascus, where he planned to arrest more Christians, when the risen Jesus

literally appeared to him. The light of Jesus' glory was so bright it blinded Paul. It knocked him to the ground. Paul was forced to believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive. His life after death wasn't a silly myth. It was hard fact because Paul met Jesus.

Paul did a complete about face. He went from being one of the most viscous persecutors of Christians to becoming one of the most outspoken and energetic Christians in the history of the world as he worked to tell more and more people that Jesus is alive. Paul died in Rome because he claimed Jesus rose from the dead. It was not just Paul that died because he claimed Jesus was alive. All the apostles died by gruesome torture. None of them would recant that Jesus was alive and Jesus is God. The only apostle that didn't die under torture was the apostle John. He was boiled in oil but he lived to tell about it.

We also need to remember that Paul was a devout Jew. He knew that anyone that did not worship the one true God of the universe was on a one-way trip to hell. Why would Paul give his entire life to telling people Jesus is alive if he was not absolutely convinced Jesus rose from the dead when he met him on the road to Damascus?

9. The empty grave clothes convinced the apostle John.

In Luke 24:12 and John 20:1-8, we learn that Jesus' grave clothes were neatly left in place in the tomb when he rose from the dead. The significance of these details may not strike us until we understand Jewish burial customs. Jesus' body was wrapped in strips of cloth, and more than 75 pounds of spices were placed between the strips of cloth. One of those spices was myrrh. Myrrh is a sticky tree resin that doesn't just have a pleasant smell but it acts like glue. It is

like pine sap. It made the strips of cloth stick together so Jesus' body was cocooned in cloth and spices. The head cloth would have been a separate piece wrapped around his head like a turban.

If Jesus' body was stolen and the burial cloths were left behind, more than 75 pounds of spices would have been all over the tomb in addition to the cloth lying everywhere. Taking the body out of the grave clothes was a messy, sticky and lengthy process.

The Bible tells us the grave clothes were left intact but Jesus' body was absent. It was like Jesus' body passed right through the cloth cocoon leaving the shell intact but the body absent. This was so significant that when the apostle John saw it, it was enough to convince him that Jesus rose from the dead. There was no other way to leave the cloth cocoon intact and have the body absent other than the body supernaturally passing through the cloth.

Look what happened when the apostle John saw the cloth cocoon intact.

Then the other disciple (John), who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed... John 20:8 (ESV)

The evidence of the burial clothing convinced him.

10. Touching Jesus' wounds convinced Thomas.

In the Bible, many of us like to give the apostle Thomas, a bum rap. People that need to see things to believe things are called doubting Thomases. Before we give Thomas a hard time, we need to realize he was a solid thinker. He knew people don't rise from the dead. Even though Jesus had appeared risen from the dead to all the other apostles except for him, no matter how hard the other apostles tried to convince him, he wouldn't believe them. Even though the

apostles were his closest friends, Thomas wouldn't believe them because dead people do not come back to life.

You can hear the mocking tone in Thomas' words when he said to the other disciples that unless he literally put his finger into the nail hole in Jesus' hand and literally shoved his hand into the wound made by the spear in Jesus' side he would not believe.

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." John 20:25 (ESV)

I don't have a problem with Thomas. Most of us in this room would be the same way. One week later, the Bible tells us Jesus showed up again but this time Thomas was present. Look what Jesus said.

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" John 20:26–28 (ESV)

The moment Thomas saw Jesus and put his hands in Jesus' wounds, he believed Jesus rose from the dead. He didn't just believe Jesus rose from the dead but he realized the true identity of Jesus. Jesus is God!

Thomas was never the same. His whole life was changed by this event. He gave the rest of his life to telling people that Jesus is alive. History tells us Thomas took the good news of Jesus being alive to what is today Turkey, Iraq and western Iran. Thomas is also credited with bringing Christianity to India and parts of China. He died in A.D. 72 in Mylapore, India. He was killed by Hindu

priests who were trying to stop him from telling more people this simple message: Jesus is alive.

How does the resurrection make a practical difference?

I hope the evidence for Jesus' resurrection helped bolster your faith. The question is, what practical difference does it make? Let me give you three practical take-aways from the resurrection.

It tells us which religion is the truth.

Today there are many different religions. How can you know which one is true? It is simple.

Mohammed live and died. His was buried at Medina in Saudi Arabia. His tomb is occupied. Buddha lived and died. He was buried in Kushinagar, India. He is still in his tomb. Confucious lived and died. He was buried in Qufu, China. He is still in his tomb.

Jesus lived, died, rose from the grave, talked, touched and ate with hundreds upon hundreds of people. His tomb is empty.

Who do you think knows the truth about life, death and what happens beyond the grave? Some dead guys that are still in their tombs or the one man who rose from the dead to live forever so his tomb is empty?

Who are you going to trust to tell you the truth about God? The tomb makes all the difference.

It tells us Jesus is the only way to know God.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (ESV)

The resurrected Jesus says the problem in the world is sin. The only way we can be forgiven of our sins is through him and what he did on the cross where he died for our sin. Jesus says the only way we can approach God is through him. That may not sound inclusive. It may not sound politically correct, but I didn't say it. Jesus said it. Jesus rose from the dead so he had the credentials to tell us the truth about God and the way to know him. If Jesus says he is the only way to know God, and he is the only one on the planet who rose from the dead to prove it, I am going with Jesus on this one every time, even if it isn't politically correct and inclusive.

It tells us that we can have victory in the face of death.

As a pastor, I often find myself with people facing death. Maybe it is the heartbreaking death of a child. Sometimes it is the painfulness of losing a parent or friend.

One day, all of us will face our own deaths.

When it comes to facing death, that is where we thank God for Jesus the most. He faced death before us. He didn't just face death but he came out victorious on the other side of death when he rose to life.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live..." John 11:25 (ESV)

Jesus promises that everyone who confesses their sin to him and asks his death on the cross to pay for their sin will not have their death be the bitter end where we face judgment for our sin, but when we close our eyes in this life we will open them to see Jesus in heaven with all of our sins forgiven.

One day, when Christ returns, our very same flesh-and-blood bodies that went into the grave will rise from the grave, just like Jesus' body. We will live forever on the new heavens and earth with Jesus, in our resurrected bodies.

As we close, there are two options for us this morning. The first is for those who haven't asked Jesus to forgive your sin and be in charge of your life. As I close in prayer, I challenge you to ask Jesus to forgive your sin and know for certain he was telling the truth about forgiving your sin because he rose to life to prove it. I challenge you to become a Christian.

The other option is for those of us who already know Christ. We are going to celebrate the resurrection by celebrating communion together. After the closing prayer, I will have Tanner come up front and play while we distribute communion. I ask you to hold it, and we will take it together. While communion is distributed, I want you to take that time of silent prayer to thank Jesus for rising from the dead, paying for your sin, and giving you the promise of eternal life in a resurrected body with him.



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