

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 - Colossians 3:1-4 - John 20:1-9

I was thinking about this Gospel and realized that...one thing really stands out about Jesus. Some people are easy to find. Jesus... not so much.

He was always hard to keep track of.

We have only one story from His childhood—He's twelve years old, goes to Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph... and what happens?

He disappears. Mary and Joseph lose Him. Imagine how frantic they were. Of course they have to search for Him.

Remember, that's the **only** story about Jesus as a young person—that we have. You gotta wonder what else he did through his teens that drove Mary and Joseph up the wall and gave them gray hair.

And, even as an adult, how often did he disappear? Clearly, that habit never changed. When he begins his public ministry, sure—He begins in the synagogue of His hometown... but He doesn't stay there.

When you think you'd find Him in the Temple or synagogue... He's not there. He's at a wedding reception.

Or out in the desert, by himself - praying.

Or up north on a hillside teaching, in another small village healing people.

Or—maybe most surprising of all—on the wrong side of town, hanging and dining with tax collectors, sinners, and outcasts. What the heck!

I can imagine Mary's neighbor coming to Mary saying, "Did you hear about your son?" And Mary, exasperated, throwing her hands up, rolling her eyes, and saying, "What's he done this time? He was probably known for giving his parents fits. Always doing the unexpected and surprising.

So really, it shouldn't surprise us...that when Mary Magdalene went looking for Him in the tomb—**He wasn't there either**. And yet, when Jesus left that tomb, that was the most unexpected and surprising thing of all:

In that - He showed humankind—that death... is not the end.
What we thought was final... isn't final.
What we thought was over... isn't over.

And because of that, everything changes. That's what we believe! Because of Jesus - everything is new!!!

We don't come here today doubting that Jesus rose from the dead.
There is powerful witness to that truth.

You see it immediately in the disciples—
a group that was once fearful, confused, even cowardly...
suddenly they are bold, fearless, filled with the Holy Spirit—
so much so that they go out and change the world.

And just think of the millions of men and women who have followed in their footsteps. Living examples of devotion, love, compassion, and service to God and God's people.

In Christ risen, Something has happened. Something real. Something transformative.

But here's where the personal struggle for us may come in. The doubt we carry is not so much about Jesus risen. The doubt is about ourselves.

We wonder: Can I really change? Can I really become new? Can I live differently? Can I be holy? Well, here's the good news - the answer is YES! Think about who God is and what God has done.

The God of Genesis— the God who brought light out of darkness and created the world out of nothing—**can He not recreate us?**

The God of Exodus— who freed His people from slavery and led them to freedom—**Can't He free you and me from the things that bind us?**

The Christ of the Gospel—leaving behind death and walking from the tomb.
Can he bring new life to us?

Of course He can. And that is what Easter is about. Easter is not just about what happened to Jesus. It's about what can happen **in and to us**.

It is about new life. It is about transformation. It is about change.

To be honest... If you want everything in your life to stay exactly the same—Easter is not for you.

If you're convinced nothing in your life needs to change—Easter is not for you.

If you think other people are the problem, and not you—Easter is not for you.

Easter is about new life. And new life means—something in us must change.

Now, God does the work—but we have a responsibility in this change. We have to open ourselves to it.

We need to pray. We need to come to Church. We need to know Jesus, to try to live as disciples. And in that, we begin to live in the light of the Gospel.

And slowly, quietly... yet powerfully... **Christ risen - rises within us**.

And here's the beautiful part: Just like always... He will be where you don't expect Him. Not just in a tomb. Not just in a church building.

But in your heart. In your struggles. In your fears. In all those moments when life feels overwhelming and difficult.

When you face darkness... He will be there.

When you feel stuck... He will be there.

When you think nothing can change... He will be there.

Because of the Resurrection, your past does not have to define your future. Failure can become grace. Sin can be transformed into new life.

This is the day—this is the season—of second chances. For every one of us.

So today, Easter teaches us this:
What seems impossible... is not impossible.
What seems finished... is not finished.
What seems unchangeable... is not unchangeable.

Because in Jesus Christ—**the unexpected has become a fact - it's the norm.**

So don't hold back.
Don't settle for staying the same.

Let Him find you—even where you least expect it.
Let Him change you.
Let Him give you new life.

Let it happen. My brothers and sisters - let this a be a Happy Easter.

Become new in the Risen Christ!