

Serm.Series: Worship that goes beyond the `warm and fuzzy`—Lord of Life Lutheran—4/15/2001(Easter)

Title: “Resurrected Worship”

Text: Matthew 28: 1-10

Introduction: **Illus.: THREE STRIKES AND YOU ARE OUT!**

Theme: If Jesus has risen from the dead, we don’t come to worship with a bunker mentality to get pumped back up to try to make it through another week but rather we come to celebrate, calibrate, and commence our resurrection life.

Worship that CELEBRATES the resurrection of Jesus

- **We lower our expectations of what God can do, and we get what we expect**
 1. Looking at the grave or seeing the empty tomb (**print and read vs. 1**)
 2. What we come to worship, today, seeking is probably what we go home with---*or even less*
 3. **ILLUS.: GOD IS IN THE STILL SMALL VOICE**
- **Expect an Easter miracle to happen in worship today** (and every Sunday as an celebration of Easter)
 1. What if Jesus showed up for our worship this Easter morning?
 2. The soldiers were struck stone-cold-dead in fear when Jesus showed up that Easter (**print and read vs. 2-4**)
 3. The women and disciples were confused and speechless when Jesus showed up that Easter (**print and read vs. 5-6**)
 4. If Jesus showed up with power of his resurrection into your life, what would be your response?
 5. *I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Philip. 3:10-11*

Worship that CALIBRATES our response to Jesus

- **ILLUS.: RESTORING OUR TRUE NORTH**
- **Moving from spectator to participants** (“*Come and see...then go and tell*” vs. 6-7)
 1. Getting away from the “wait and see what they’ll do for me this morning” and coming fully engaged to meet Jesus
 2. When Jesus comes into my life with his resurrection power, it is a call for decision and action.
- **Moving from fear to joy** (“*afraid, yet filled with joy*” vs. 8)
 1. “*Stop being afraid*” (for your job, for your children, for your health, for your safety, for your future)
 2. If the resurrection is true, what can happen to you that separates you from the love of God for Christ’s sake?(**Rom.8**)
- **Moving from a “bunker mentality” to a “staging area”**
 1. “*The women came to him, grabbed his feet, and worshiped him.*” vs. 9
 2. **ILLUS.: RUNNING THE MINI-MARATHON—(leave the staging area and get in the race)**

Worship that COMMENCES living for Jesus in the world around us

- **Come and see to go and tell**
 1. Twice the women are told to go and tell (**print and read vs. 5-7 & 9-10**)
 2. Our worship is incomplete if we leave the Easter message inside these walls
 3. “*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*” Col. 3:17
- **Carry the right message out to others**—*they are listening to what you say!*
 1. Do you bring a message of **fear or** a message of **security**? (afraid of all the same thing the world is)
 2. Do you bring a message of **guilt or** a message of **freedom**? (driven by legalism rather than led by the Spirit)
 3. Do you bring a message of **doubt or** a message of **faith**? (needing proof at every turn or trusting God’s word)
 4. Do you bring a message of **despair or** a message of **hope**? (wringing our hands or folding our hands over life)
 5. “*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.*” 2 Cor. 4:7-10
- **ILLUS.: LET THE WHOLE WORLD HEAR!**

THREE STRIKES AND YOU ARE OUT!

Once a young boy having earned some money from his first job, decided to take his grandmother bowling. She was truly a novice/rookie at this sport and had no clue as to how it was played. So he rented her some shoes and got her set up with a bowling ball from the rack that fit her hand and was the right weight. He gave her a quick run-down on how the game was played explaining that you got two throws with each frame to get all ten pins knocked down. Then they started. The first ball his grandmother threw was a strike. The boy was excited and hooped and howler as all the pins went falling down. In the next frame his grandmother again threw another perfect strike ball and all the pins scattered behind its force. Finally, grandma stepped up to the line for her third throw. Kerplunk!—away the ball went—and sure enough a third strike. But as the grandson was getting up to throw his ball, he noticed that his grandmother was taking off her shoes. Grandma, what are you doing? You have a perfect game going! Why are you quitting. His grandmother looked at him with a discouraged look and said, “Three strikes and you’re out!”

RESTORING OUR TRUE NORTH

My sister bought a new car that was loaded with high-tech options. The first time she drove the car in the rain, she turned a knob she thought would start the windshield wipers. Instead a message flashed across the dash: "Drive car in 360 degrees." She had no idea what that meant, and so when she got home she read the car manual. She learned that while trying to turn on the windshield wipers she had inadvertently turned off the internal compass, and the car had lost its sense of direction. To correct the problem, the car had to be driven in a full circle, pointed north, and then the compass had to be reset. Each time we gather to worship, we are resetting our internal compass. We establish "true north" in our soul, remembering who God is and what his truth proclaims.

LET THE WHOLE WORLD HEAR!

Fritz Kreisler, the world-famous violinist, earned a fortune with his concerts and compositions, but he generously gave most of it away. So, when he discovered an exquisite violin on one of his trips, he wasn't able to buy it. Later, having raised enough money to meet the asking price, he returned to the seller, hoping to purchase that beautiful instrument. But to his great dismay, it had been sold to a collector. Kreisler made his way to the new owner's home and offered to buy the violin. The collector said it had become his prized possession and he would not sell it. Kreisler was heartbroken and was about to leave when he had an idea. "Could I play the instrument once before it is consigned to silence?" he asked. Permission was granted, and the great virtuoso filled the room with such heart-moving music that the collector's emotions were deeply stirred. "I have no right to keep that to myself," he exclaimed. "It's yours, Mr Kreisler. Take it into the world, and let people hear it!"

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." [NIV]