

The Vigil of the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord  
St. Matthew 28:1-7  
April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC  
Simpsonville, SC  
Pastor Jerald Dulas

## Fear Not Ye

*In Nomine Iesu!*

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **Sermon Text:**

And the angel answered and said unto the women, "Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, who hath been crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, even as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

### **Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:**

O Lord, send out Thy Light and Thy Truth, let them lead us. O Lord, open Thou my lips, that my mouth may show forth Thy praise. O Lord, graciously preserve me, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

All this Holy Week we have heard of our Lord's Passion; His suffering and death to atone for the sins of mankind. This is why our Lord + Jesus humbled Himself to come down from Heaven and become man. He came in order that He might fulfill the Law which we broke as a man, and offer up His life as ransom for our sins. He came in order that He might die in our place on the tree of the holy cross. We heard of His suffering, pain, mockery, and death. We heard how much He endured to win salvation for all those who believe on Him. We heard that our Lord and Savior was taken down from the cross dead. That He was placed in a new sepulcher in which no one else had ever been laid. A large stone had been rolled in front of the tomb, the tomb was sealed, and guards were placed in front of the tomb to guard anyone from removing the Lord + Jesus from the grave.

That He was dead and buried is attested to by these facts. That He was securely in the grave where no one could disturb Him is witnessed to by these facts recorded by the Evangelists. He accomplished the purpose for which He came. He came to offer His life up in our place. He came to die. This is established by the facts.

But He Who is the Author of life; Who is life itself is not dead. For although He came to die to atone for the sins of the whole world, He did not come to stay dead. Our Lord and Savior is the Creator and Maker of all life on earth. Such a Lord cannot stay dead. He Who created all life cannot stay dead. He has the power and authority to overthrow the bonds of death. He has the power and authority to overthrow the prince of this world. Satan has been judged. He has been sentenced to Hell. And our Lord + Jesus is no longer dead, but lives and reigns for all eternity seated at the right hand of God the Father. Death has no hold over Him.

Therefore, my dear friends, death has no power over us any longer. For we who cling in faith to the Lord + Jesus are united to Him in His death. We are united to His death through the waters of Holy Baptism. We who have been baptized have already died to sin. We have died and been buried with the

Christ in His grave. Now that He has burst open the sealed tomb; now that the stone has been rolled away, and the women who came to the tomb have found the tomb empty, for the Lord has risen, we too have risen to life again. The Lord Who has power over death, and Who is the author of life, grants life to all those who have been baptized, and cling to Him in faith.

We need not fear death any longer. For our Lord is the Lord of life. Our Lord is the One Who conquered death and the grave. Even as He did not remain in the grave, neither will we remain in our graves. Therefore, fear ye not death, for ye have already died. Ye have died in the waters of Holy Baptism. Ye have been raised again to eternal life in the waters of Holy Baptism.

This is why on this night we remember our Holy Baptisms; why we reminded ourselves of the vows which we took when we were baptized. We have renounced the devil, and all his works, and all his ways. We have confessed that we believe in the Triune Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. We have confessed that we have been washed clean and free from all sins and trespasses. Not because of anything that we have done, but because the Lord God desired for us to be with Him in Heaven. He desired that His creation would not suffer eternally in Hell, but would rather be joined to Him forever in Heaven.

He has defeated death for us. He has washed us in the waters of Holy Baptism. Our sins have been washed away, and our death has been left in the tomb of the Christ. We now have inherited an eternal life with our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. For He has risen from the grave. He has shown His power and authority over death and the grave. He has won eternal life for all those who believe on Him.

Let us therefore, my dearly beloved children, rejoice this night. For our Lord has opened up our graves once and for all. Death cannot no longer hold us, even as it no longer holds our Lord and Savior + Jesus, the Christ. We need fear death no longer. Our Lord, Who is the Author and Creator of all life, and bestowed upon us a Kingdom which has no end. We will live with Him and all the angels, and archangels, and all the company of Heaven for all eternity. For our Lord has won eternal life for us by removing the power of death over us. Let us cling in faith to the One Who is life itself, for in Him we have life and salvation. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

**Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:**

Almighty God, be pleased to accompany Thy Word with Thy Holy Spirit and grant that Thy Word would increase faith in us; bring into the Way of Truth all such as have erred; turn the hearts of the unrepentant; and for sake of Thy Name grant succor to all heavy hearts and those who are heavy-laden, that they may through the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ be relieved and preserved so that they succumb not to the temptation of despair but rather that they gain the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with the Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

**The Votum:**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*