



From the Desk of Pastor Meyer

What would be the most life-changing sentence you could hear? “You just won the lottery”? “Congratulations...it’s triplets”? “Your child just received a fully funded scholarship to [insert favorite] university”? “Your retirement savings accounts have done much better than anticipated; you should be able to retire six months earlier than you thought”? These kinds of things are life-changing in a good sense of the term. We can imagine other sentences that are life-changing in a not-so-good sense of the term.

On April 1, the Christian Church will again hear the most life-changing sentence the world has ever heard: when the angels said to Peter and John, “He is not here. He has risen, as He said,” (*Matthew 28:6*). With those words, the message of Resurrection takes root, blossoms and begins to flourish.

Easter is not just a one-day-out-of-the-year celebration. Easter is a life changing event. Our Lord Christ, in His resurrection, defeated the power of death and the grave and crushed Satan’s hold over us. For the past 40 days of Lent, we have followed Jesus’ footsteps to the cross; we heard the nails driven into his feet and hands; we listened somberly as Jesus spoke his last words and took his last breath. But Easter morning, on the first day of the week, we stand outside Jesus’ open tomb that He walked out of – alive – with hands and feet marked by the nails, his side showing the mark of the spear. Crucified for us, He now lives for us.

And you live in Him. You are a baptized child of God. Not merely a symbol, Baptism is an act of God uniting you to Him through Christ’s death and resurrection. Think of the Easter power that has for you! “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his” (*Rom. 6:3-5*). This life-changing event gives us the life-changing sentence of Christendom: Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

But, remember: this is life-changing; it has an on-going, continued thrust behind it. The Resurrection wasn’t just an event in history. It is a “gift that keeps on giving” and opens the door to eternity for us.

What always amazes me about the promises of God is that when He speaks them, even if it takes centuries to be fulfilled, it is as if it is already done. So, for example, Isaiah the prophet speaks in present tense when describing Jesus as Messiah...*seven hundred years before Jesus is ever born of Mary!*

This is true for the Resurrection promise as well. It’s not just a past tense event, “Christ is risen.” It’s also a future proclamation as well of our own resurrection when Christ returns. Here’s how you can share this life-changing news as Resurrection Christians. On Easter morning, you will hear people say, “Christ is risen” you will probably answer “He is risen indeed.” When you hear those wonderful words, I want you to add something. I want you to say, “We are risen, we are risen indeed! Alleluia!”

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!
We are risen! We are risen, indeed! Alleluia!

With the joy of the resurrection and trusting in the promise of the world to come,
Happy Easter! Pastor Meyer