

## Sun Rise Service

There is something sacred about gathering at sunrise.

The world is hushed, shadows still linger, and yet the horizon begins to glow with a promise it has kept since the beginning of time.

Before we speak a word, the morning itself preaches: *darkness does not get the final say.*

1. The Story of Easter (Resurrection Sunday) is the Story of Jesus.
2. It is the story the world needs to hear, and we need to tell.
3. It is the story in which we find our place, for it is our story.
4. It is a story that goes on, it lives because He Lives.

**There are many around the world and here in the USA that would love to destroy Christianity.**

Well – I can tell them **How to destroy Christianity?** - Prove that the tomb was occupied!

## **Without the Resurrection there would be no Christianity.**

### **“IF’S**

#### **1 Corinthians 15:12–20**

**12** Now **if** Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But **if** there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. **14** And **if** Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. **15** Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—**if** in fact the dead do not rise. **16** For **if** the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. **17** And **if** Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! **18** Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19** **If** in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. **20** **But now Christ is risen** from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Our Faith is founded **upon facts**, and the greatest facts is  
God... Raised Up Jesus.

**Religious leaders** have all been buried - their remains are in a grave (as dust).:

Confucius' tomb is occupied.

Buddha's tomb is occupied.

Mohammed's tomb is occupied.

**Jesus' tomb is empty!**

**Where is the evidence? Of the empty tomb!**

We know who took his body down.

We know the spice that was used on the body.

We have an account of the wrappings around the body.

What was placed on his head.

We know whose tomb he was buried in.

And many eyewitnesses.

## 1 Corinthians 15:12–20

1. (v.13) **If** there is no resurrection, then Christ is not raised.
2. (vv. 14-15) **IF** Christ is not raised, the entire Christian faith collapses.

The gospel message has no substance without the resurrection.

3. (v.17) **IF** Christ is not raised, sin still owns us.
4. (v. 18) **IF** Christ is not raised, believers who died are lost forever (no hope after the grave).
5. (v.19) **If** Christ is not raised, Christians are the most miserable people on earth (living a lie) we have deceived ourselves and others.

**Thank God There is No (“IF’S)**

6. (**v.20**) We have victory “But now Christ is risen...” (v.20)

**This changes everything. Christ’s Resurrection guarantees ours.**

**Look at the Apostles after the Resurrection:** Something Happened

**Consider Peter:** he cowardly denied Christ three times. But 53 days later he boldly proclaimed and confessed Christ before thousands.

Not even in imprisonments and terrible treated by the Jewish leaders could silence this fearless preacher. (WHAT HAPPENED THE RESURRECTION)

**James, the Lord's half-brother** - the son of Mary and Joseph, did not believe in Christ - but later became the leader of the great church at Jerusalem. (WHAT HAPPENED THE RESURRECTION)

**Doubting Thomas** refused to believe in the resurrection unless he could see and touch the risen Savior. He saw no hope beyond the grave.

Nothing less than empirical evidence would convince him.

Yet tradition tells us that Thomas later became a great missionary to Persia or India. What changed the skeptic into a believer - what transformed doubting Thomas.

(WHAT HAPPENED THE RESURRECTION)

**Saul** was one of the greatest enemies of the church of Christ ever had. His life was devoted to destroying Christians. One day Saul journeyed to the city of Damascus and before he arrived something happened which drastically changed his life.

The church's greatest persecutor soon became the church's greatest apostle.

**The eleven disciples** at the time of the arrest of Christ (they ran scared) - weeks later the same men became powerful, bold preachers who were willing to be martyred for what they believed.

Something Happened! The Resurrection!

**1 Corinthians 15:55** - "O Death, where is your sting? O, (grave) where is your victory?"

**1 Corinthians 15:57-58**

**57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

**Because Christ lives:**

Our sins are forgiven.

Our faith is meaningful.

Our preaching is powerful.

Our hope is secure.

Our future resurrection is guaranteed.

**Closing Invitation**

So, as this new day begins, may we feel the warmth of a hope that does not depend on our strength. May we carry the truth that the same power that raised Christ is still at work in the world, still at work in us.

The night is over. The light has come.

**Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.**