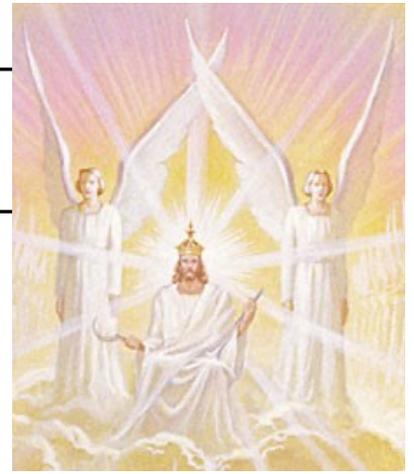


The Resurrection



Introduction

You have an opportunity to share the good news about Jesus with a relative or friend. If they ask you what makes Jesus different from any other religious figure. What would you tell them? You could tell them that Jesus loves us. You could tell them about his teachings. Or you could also tell them that Jesus is God and that he rose from the dead. Tell them about that and what that means for us.

Opening Prayer: Dear Jesus, my life in this world is in your hands. My life in the world to come is in your hands. Through this study of your exaltation, strengthen my faith so that I may grow ever more confident that you are in control of all things and that just as you rose from the dead, so one day I will rise too. Amen.

Lesson Aim: Why is Jesus' exaltation meaningful for us?

Part One

We read from Matthew 26-27 last week. We'll continue that story today. Read Matthew 28:1-10.

- 1) On what day did all of this happen?
- 2) As the guards are busily watching the tomb, a holy angel appears. How did the guards react?
- 3) We've seen this type of reaction before. (Adam and Eve hid from God in the Garden of Eden. The Christmas shepherds were terrified when the angels appeared to them.) Why are people often afraid when they see an angel?
- 4) When the women arrive, the angel has an amazing announcement. What has happened?
- 5) Why does the angel tell them, "Come and see the place where he lay."?
- 6) Explain the ladies' reaction. How could they be afraid yet filled with joy?
- 7) As they're hurrying away, Jesus appears to them. What are Jesus' first words to them?
- 8) Why do you think he said that first?

Read John 20:19-31.

- 9) Since his resurrection, though Jesus still has a true body, he is no longer confined by time and space. How do we see this in these verses?
- 10) What in these verses points to Jesus' state of exaltation, or that he again has taken up full use of his divine power and glory?

Read Romans 1:4.

- 11) What does Jesus resurrection prove about himself?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-23.

12) What does Jesus' resurrection prove for you and me?

KEY POINT 1 - Jesus' descent into hell and his resurrection assure us that he is our Savior because they show us he has won the victory over sin, death, and the devil.

What I've learned so far:

Part Two

Read Acts 1:1-11.

- 1) How long did Jesus appear to his disciples after he had risen from the dead?
- 2) What does Jesus promise them just before he ascends to heaven?
- 3) What was this power going to enable them to do?
- 4) Describe what it looked like as Jesus ascended into heaven.
- 5) Who appeared to them as they were staring up into the sky?
- 6) What did the angels tell them was going to happen in the future?
- 7) What does Jesus being taken up into heaven tell us about everything that Jesus did on earth?

Read Mark 16:19.

8) What is Jesus doing in heaven now?

Read Ephesians 1:19-22.

- 9) As we look at this passage, we don't want to think of God's right hand as a specific place, rather think of it as a position of honor, authority, and power. How far does Christ's rule extend?
- 10) For whose benefit does Christ rule?

Read John 14:1-3.

- 11) In addition to ruling, what else is Jesus doing in heaven?
- 12) What else does Jesus promise that he will do when all things are ready?

When will that happen? It may be when you die, or it may be on Judgment Day. We'll take a look specifically at Judgment Day in lesson 22. For now we'll take a brief look at that last day as it is part of Jesus' exaltation.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

- 13) Describe what the last day will look and sound like.
- 14) What is the blessed outcome of the last day?
- 15) Why does the Bible tell us these things about the day when Jesus comes again?
- 16) Why do we need to be encouraged?

KEY POINT 2 - Jesus' ascension means that every day we are one day closer to being with him in the place that he has gone ahead to prepare for us.

What I've learned so far:

Part Three

Study questions 197-208 in the Catechism and answer the following questions in your own words.

- 1) What is Christ's state of exaltation.
- 2) How was Christ exalted?
- 3) How did Christ confirm his work of redemption and make it certain for you?
- 4) With what words does the Apostles' Creed describe Jesus' state of exaltation?
- 5) Jesus' state of humiliation ended with his death and burial. Everything that occurred after that was part of his state of exaltation. Therefore, what was the first thing to occur as part of his state of exaltation?
- 6) List seven things that we can be assured of because of Jesus exaltation.
- 7) When does God want us to be ready for Jesus' final coming and Judgment Day? Why?
- 8) What will be the only basis for the judgment Jesus will make on the day we see his state of exaltation?

Helpful Passages

Philippians 2:9-11

What is the proper response for us as we consider Jesus' state of exaltation?

Mark 8:31

Throughout his life, as he did in this verse, Jesus had foretold that he would die and rise again. What does his resurrection then prove about his words?

Romans 4:25

Jesus resurrection proves that we stand before God as _____ .

Hebrews 2:9

When we think of Jesus, we often think of him teaching in his humble state as a poor man or hanging on the cross. What does this verse tell us is true of Jesus as we think of him now?

Main point — Jesus' exaltation proves that he has redeemed me.

Final considerations:

- 1) Christ rose from the dead ____ .
 - A. with the same body that he had during his earthly life when he suffered and died for us.
 - B. without any human body at all, but with the divine body that he had before his incarnation.
 - C. with a new spiritual body, which looked exactly like his human body.
- 2) Jesus descended into hell after he died to ____ .
 - A. make final payment for the sins of the world.
 - B. defeat the devil.
 - C. proclaim his victory that he had already won completely.
- 3) The resurrection is ____ .
 - A. Jesus' coming to life after death.
 - B. when we go to heaven.
 - C. the day when all dead bodies will be raised and reunited with their souls.
- 4) The Apostles' Creed identifies 5 major parts to Jesus' state of exaltation. Look at the Second Article of that creed and identify those 5 major parts:



- 5) Why did Jesus descend into hell? (See questions 200 in the Catechism and note the two verses referenced with this question.)
- 6) What is the most important and greatest day in history?

Agree or Disagree:

- 7) ___ Jesus' coming to judge the world is nothing to worry about.
- 8) ___ Christ has redeemed us from the power of the devil and from our sins, if we are truly sorry for them.
- 9) ___ The exaltation of Christ began with his resurrection.
- 10) ___ Jesus spiritually descended into hell before he said "It is finished" on the cross.
- 11) ___ No one has ever seen Jesus alive after his death.
- 12) ___ Because Jesus is sitting on his throne in heaven he can't be with us on earth.

Keep working on your personal confession of faith creed.

What I've learned about my exalted Savior:

Commit to Memory:

- The Second Article with Luther's explanation.
 - Easter—Luke 24
- The Resurrection—1 Corinthians 15