

SERMON

“Finding Jesus on the Road to Gulfport”

Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

How we interpret Scripture:

*In the final analysis, all interpretations of Scripture are subject to the “Rule of Love.”
This rule finds its origin in the commandments Jesus identified as being first and foremost:
(1) To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength;
and (2) to love our neighbor as ourselves.*

RESPONSE

“Morning Has Broken”

MOMENT OF STEWARDSHIP

Text your offering to 727-205-0405 or give via Venmo to 727-200-2785 or by scanning the QR code below.



GIFT OF MUSIC

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

It is a good and joyful thing to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
As your people, we boldly declare the Risen Christ as our savior. Called to a new life of freedom and wholeness, we are grateful for the uniting power of Easter, binding us to one another and to the world. May our gifts, as people of the Risen Christ, be spread through the community and beyond.
Amen.

EASTER HYMN

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

John Mason, Trumpet

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

If you’re able to stay and help stack chairs after the service, please do. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.
pagchurch.org

Easter
2024



sunrise service

Pass-A-Grille Beach
Community Church

*The empty tomb and resurrection. What happened two thousand years ago?
We may never know the actual facts, but we do know a truth: whatever happened transformed
a people hiding from violence into courageous followers of CHRIST. And what about today?
It is Easter in both Ukraine and Gaza. It is Easter here, on our American soil. We need the redemptive
power of CHRIST to rise today in people who long for peace, no matter where they are.
Easter and the peace of CHRIST, one and the same.—From the writings of Jim Wallis*

GATHERING MUSIC

Winston Culler

EASTER GREETING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(please rise as you are able)

Pastor: Christ is risen!
People: **God’s steadfast love endures forever.**
Pastor: Death has lost its sting.
People: **God’s steadfast love endures forever.**
Pastor: Rejoice in this day of salvation. Christ is risen!
People: **He is risen indeed!**

OPENING SONG

GOSPEL NARRATIVE

Luke 24: 1 – 12

On the first day of the week, early in the morning, the women took spices and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They were wondering about this when two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” Then they remembered his words.

When they came back from the tomb, they told these things to the Eleven and to the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. He bent over, saw the strips of linen by themselves, and he returned, wondering what happened.

CALL TO PRAYER

Pastor: In forgiving past grudges, in unlocking unwept tears,
People: **We experience Easter, and renewed love.**
Pastor: In transforming buried anger, in abandoning guilt and fear,
People: **We experience Easter, and calming peace.**
Pastor: In the melting of the ice in our heart, in the giving of our being to God,
People: **We experience Easter, and new life.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

THE GOSPEL NARRATIVE CONTINUES

Luke 24: 13 – 35

That same day two men were going to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that happened. As they discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they did not recognize him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing together?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. One, named Cleopas, asked, “Are you the only one in Jerusalem who does not know what has happened in these days?”

“What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. It is the third day since all this took place. And then some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They told us they had seen angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So, he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and others gathered, who proclaimed the good news to them. “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what happened on the road, and how they recognized Jesus when he broke the bread.

