

The Eastertide Season (Resurrection)

Resurrection Sunday is a day of unrestrained joy and hope. It is focused on the redemptive act of God to us through Christ's death. Jesus' resurrection unveils the future and hope of those who follow him. It also discloses the meaning, purpose, fulfillment of creation, history, and the prophecy.

The future is not anymore opaque but transparent—revealing God's redemption working out towards its final fulfillment in God's time. The resurrection of Jesus enables believers to discern in the present the coming of hope.

Resurrection Sunday

Lectionary Title 18: **The Victory of the Crucified Messiah***Old Testament: Job 19:25-27* (NRSV, 1989)

²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
²⁶ and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

New Testament: Luke 24:1-12 (NRSV, 1989)

The Resurrection of Jesus

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed 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, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.'

Matthew 4:11 (NRSV, 1989)

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*General Concept: God vindicated Jesus' choice as the Messiah.**Key Concepts in the Different Age Levels in Sunday School*N/K/YE: **Jesus is alive.**ME/OE: **Jesus is raised from the dead by God.**Y: **God vindicates Jesus and his mission as the Messiah.**A: **God vindicates Jesus and his mission as the Messiah.**

Exegesis of the Biblical References

The passage is part of Job's series of laments to God on his condition of relentless suffering. Seemingly God is punishing him. Job was raising questions while trying to understand and find answers as to why God was allowing him to undergo pain and shame. But, despite Job's wailing and complaining he continued to hope that there is life beyond all his misery and ordeal. Here, Job expresses a strong confidence that somehow and somewhere when his end comes, he would still meet God face to face. Job here speaks of a hope that overcomes and transcends what appears to be an irreversible fate of death, isolation and despair. He upholds the faith that death is not the end of all life and all hopes of the human since the ultimate destiny of life is the eventual reunion and reconciliation with God.

Jesus died and it seemed that his adversaries had successfully stopped him from proclaiming the gospel and establishing the Kingdom of God. Jesus was crucified and suffered the most shameful and violent form of punishment because of his obedience to God's will. Jesus faced death and persecution alone because his disciples turned their backs on him out of fear. But, early morning on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James went to Jesus' tomb and were surprised to not find his body. Instead they were told by two men wearing bright clothes that Jesus had risen from the dead. The women then told Jesus' disciples what happened but they did not believe because initially they assumed that their story is nothing but an idle tale, or a fabricated story by the women themselves, reflecting clearly the men's own low regard for women. But these disciples have forgotten what Jesus told them about his suffering and rising on the third day. Their disbelief was illustrated further by Peter who ran to the tomb to see for himself the unbelievable news he heard from the women followers of Jesus.

Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem as his own choice and decision not only to confront the powers and authority that despised him but to fulfill his purpose as the Messiah who will suffer and die an ignominious, humiliating death. In dying he did not only conquer death but received the gift and power of resurrection. Now, Jesus' resurrection from the dead became humanity's ultimate gift, the hope for eternal life, especially of those who are being crucified each day by an unjust system that victimizes and abuses, of those who are oppressed, marginalized, neglected, and persecuted by the powerful in society. The resurrection of Jesus is God's affirmation of the path Jesus chose as the Messiah who brings good news to the weak and the poor so that those who follow him may now also conquer death and experience the same resurrection.

As we follow Jesus as our Messiah, we are called to the same degree of obedience to the will of God to confront and challenge the powers and authority that cause affliction on the weak and the poor in our land. We are expected to tread the same path Jesus chose and that is to proclaim the good news to all people especially to those who are desperate and hopeless in their situation, even in the face of danger and various threats. As Jesus' followers, we partake in his suffering and being with the marginalized so that through our own witness, service and efforts of solidarity with them in their plight, the lowly will also experience the Kingdom of God.

The resurrection of Jesus should remind us that we can now overcome suffering and even death as we follow Jesus toward the establishment of God's kingdom here on earth. In Jesus' resurrection we receive hope and assurance that in our obedience to God's call we too will receive the gift and power of the resurrection.

Companion Guide for the Teachers and Other Users

Mocked by his tormentors and abandoned by his closest friends, Jesus breathed his last with the sole assurance that he had accomplished the mission that God sent him for. It didn't matter what lay in store for him beyond his crucifixion. But God gave Jesus an answer that he didn't ask for. He bestowed on him a blessing never received by anyone before – the power of resurrection from the dead! God didn't just rescue him from the world of the dead which was the destination of every mortal being. God granted him the power of resurrection that no one else can give but the almighty and eternal God. Sharing this power with God, Jesus has received the authority to share it also with those who believe and follow him. God has more than answered Jesus' question about his fate. God made Jesus' resurrection the end goal of every believer who followed him and carried their crosses for his sake.

There is another side to God's answer to Jesus. God affirmed and vindicated his chosen path of obedience. Jesus took up the cause of those who have suffered abuse, violence, neglect, humiliation and oppression by society's powers-that-be. Instead of being decorated he was despised, persecuted, criminalized and made to suffer. By his resurrection, God upheld his choice to be with the world's sufferers. Although Jesus failed to change the world in his life on earth, God endorsed Jesus' pursuit of truth and justice as the right path towards the establishment of his kingdom on earth. Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate proof of God's approval of his work in the world.

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

At the end of the session and with the consistent example shown by parents and other significant adults, the children will be able to:

1. tell that Jesus lives after being dead for three days;
2. accept the fact that the resurrection of Jesus gives hope and joy to all people who believe in Him; and
3. express one's joy for Jesus' resurrection.

II. Concept: Jesus is alive.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), song chart, activity sheets

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Smiling, gently tap children's head as a sign of blessing and welcome.
2. Opening prayer: Dear God, today, we joyfully celebrate Jesus whom you raised from the dead to give us life. Please be with us in this hour of our celebration. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.
3. Sing familiar joyful songs and teach the following song:
"Jesus is Alive" (Tune: "Thank You, Thank You Jesus")
Jesus is alive, Jesus is alive,
Jesus is alive. God raised him up (twice).

B. Getting Ready

Review the events that happened after Palm Sunday. Ask the pupils where they went during the celebration of Good Friday. Have them share their experience.

C. Learning Time

1. Say: "Today is Resurrection Sunday. Jesus rose from the dead three days after he died. Jesus is resurrected. So today, let us clap our hands to express our joy to God who raised Jesus from the dead."
2. Prepare the class to listen to the story.

Jesus Is Alive

(Based on Luke 24:1-12)

On Sunday morning, three days after Jesus died, some women visit the tomb of Jesus. They have some spices to use on Jesus' body.

The women find the tomb of Jesus open. He is not there.

Two men suddenly appear and say, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is alive. He is risen."

The women run to the disciples and tell them that Jesus is alive. The disciples did not believe them. Peter runs to the tomb. He does not find Jesus there because he is risen. So he goes home sad because he did not believe.

D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time

Ask these questions and tell the class to act out their answers.

1. Who came to visit Jesus' tomb? (Some women came to visit Jesus' tomb. Expect some girls to walk to the direction of a designated place in the room that signifies the tomb.)
2. Why did the women visit the tomb? (They brought some spices to put on Jesus' body. Expect the girls to bring some herbs with them. One may say, "We will use this on Jesus' body.")
3. What did they see? (The tomb is open and Jesus is no longer in the tomb. Expect the girls to look around and show worry on their faces. One may say, "Where is Jesus?")
4. Who appeared before them? (Two men appeared before them. Expect two boys to stand before the women.)
5. What did they say? (Read what the two men in the story said and let the class repeat after you. Discuss the word alive and risen and relate it to resurrection.)
6. What did the women do? (They ran and told the disciples about what happened. Expect the girls to run and tell the disciples, "Jesus is alive. He is risen.")
7. How did the disciples react? (They did not believe what the women said. Expect a pantomime where the girls (women) animatedly talk to the boys (disciples) and the boys did not believe them.)
8. What did Peter do? (Peter went to the tomb and he did not find Jesus. Expect a boy looking inside the tomb for Jesus because he is no longer there. Instead, he finds Jesus' clothes lying there.)
9. Why is Jesus no longer in the tomb? (Expect the class to say, "Jesus rose from the dead after three days. He is alive. Hallelujah!")

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: "What do we tell others about Jesus Christ upon learning that he has risen from the dead? ("Jesus is alive.")

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Lead the children to memorize the verse in Luke 24:5c: "He is not here, but has risen."
2. Lead the class to play a short game. Say: "When I say, "Jesus is dead," you will close your eyes and fold your hands in an act of prayer, but when I shout, "Jesus is alive," you will open your eyes and joyfully clap three times.
3. Ask the class to tell what they intend to do after learning that Jesus is alive (tell others about it because they believe it, do what is right, share what they have with others) and to show this through creative artwork, song, or dance) .

G. Closing Worship

1. Tell the class to recite together the memory verse: "He is not here, but has risen."
2. Sing again the song, "Jesus is Alive"
3. Offertory: Tell the children to offer their intentions after making their offering. The class may display their finished artwork.
4. Closing prayer: Lead the children in a prayer together. "Dear God, we believe Jesus is alive. With joyful hearts we say thank you for raising him from the dead! This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen."
5. Tap the children's head once again as a sign of blessing, saying, "Thank you for coming to the Sunday school. God bless you!"

Middle and Older Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. tell that Jesus lives after being dead for three days;
2. discuss that the resurrection of Jesus is made possible by God;
3. express the fact that there is hope among all believers in the resurrection of Jesus, and
4. demonstrate one's joy as Jesus is raised from the dead.

II. Concept:: Jesus is raised from the dead by God

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), song chart, bond paper, cartolina or used calendar for poster, seeds and seedlings

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Smiling, gently tap children's head as a sign of blessing and welcome.
2. Opening prayer: "Dear God, today is Resurrection Sunday. We joyfully celebrate Jesus whom you raised from the dead to give us life. Be with us please in this hour of our celebration and study. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen."
3. Sing familiar praise songs and lead the children in singing the following song: "Jesus is alive, Jesus is alive." (Tune: Thank You, Thank You Jesus)
Jesus is alive, Jesus is alive,
Jesus is alive, God raised him up (twice)

B. Getting Ready

1. Let the class show different faces depending upon the following feelings: happy or joyful, sad or lonely, angry, afraid, excited, and surprised. Then let them give appropriate sentences to accompany their facial expressions.
2. Review the class on the significant events during the previous week to prepare them on the new lesson (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Black Saturday)

C. Learning Time

1. Unlock the meaning of these words.
 - a. Redeemer: Savior
 - b. Easter: Resurrection
 - c. Tomb: grave
 - d. Roll away: Open
2. Tell the class to read the story found in Luke 24:1-12.
3. Assist the class in preparing a skit using these topics. Let them identify the children who will act in the skit.
 - a. The visit of the women to preserve Jesus' body using spices
 - b. The empty tomb
 - c. The appearance of two angels who told the women that Jesus is alive
 - d. The sharing of the news to the disciples
 - e. The disbelief of the disciples and the visit of Peter to the empty tomb
 - f. The joy of knowing that Jesus has risen from the dead
4. Discuss the skit and elicit from the class the significance of the story to people today.

5. Teach the following song:
"Because He Lives"
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Ask the children these questions:
 - a. What message does the story convey? What happens to someone who believes that Jesus lives? (One who believes that Jesus lives would not live in fear anymore and life is worth living.)
 - b. Who went first to the tomb early morning? (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and some other women)
 - c. After playing the role of the women and Peter, what would be your reaction?
2. *Analogy.* Invite the learners to bring to the front seedlings assigned them to grow. Holding a seed and a seedling, say: "We can compare the death of Jesus to a seed and a seedling to his resurrection. Like this seed, Jesus is buried and dies. After the seed dies, it becomes a seedling. Like this seedling, Jesus lives again. Assist them to conclude that Jesus' resurrection symbolizes our hope for our own resurrection that will happen during Jesus' Second Coming.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: "Who made possible the resurrection of Jesus? Why?"

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Tell the class to discuss and memorize the memory verse in Luke 24:5b: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."
2. Ask the class what resolutions they can make to share the news of Jesus being raised from the dead and is alive and living with us. Suggest that they can use the symbolism of the seed and the seedling, related to the death and resurrection of Jesus.
3. Divide the class into four groups. Let each group prepare a poster using the words in the chorus of the song "Because He Lives". Encourage the pupils to decorate their posters. Then ask each group to share their work to the whole class.

G. Closing Worship

1. Tell the children to recite together the memory verse.
2. Offering: Let the four groups offer their work.
3. Closing song: "Because He Lives"
4. Closing prayer: Dear God, we bring our material offering to say we thank you for raising our Lord Jesus from the dead. We know this money is not enough because what you want from us is to offer our life of obedience through acts of kindness to our neighbors. We thank you for making possible the resurrection of Jesus. Amen."
5. Do a group photo (groupie) session inviting all the children to stand behind the poster that they have offered. Then let them recite the following: "Thank you, God for the joy of Christ's resurrection and for the hope of our own resurrection!"

Youth Level

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. describe the circumstances surrounding the resurrection of Jesus;
2. explain the meaning and significance of Jesus' resurrection;
3. relate what Job tells in relation to the resurrection of Jesus;
4. point out to the affirmation and vindication of Jesus being the Messiah by God, and
5. identify areas in their lives that they need victory over things that they need to overcome with Jesus as their Messiah.

II. Concept: God vindicates Jesus and his mission as the Messiah.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), hymnal, activity sheet, song sheets, metacards, notebook and pen, seeds and seedlings

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: Dear God, we are happy to come together to celebrate Easter. Help us to fully understand the meaning and significance of Christ' resurrection as we apply them in our daily life. We earnestly pray in Christ's name. Amen.
3. Opening songs:
 - a. "He Lives" (HFJ #164)
 - b. "Celebrate, Jesus, Celebrate"
Celebrate, Jesus, celebrate! (4x)

B. Getting Ready

1. Ask the class about their random thoughts during the following events:
 - a. Last Supper celebrated during Maundy Thursday service
 - b. The passion and death of Jesus remembered during Good Friday service
2. Tell the class to prepare masks or emoticons showing these feelings: happy, worried, doubtful, afraid, sad, and victorious. Have them set aside these masks for use later.

C. Learning Time

1. Invite learners to close their eyes as they listen attentively to a fellow while he/she reads Job 19:25-27 and Luke 24:1-12.
2. Have the whole class read the exegesis and companion guide, one learner per paragraph or three lines, depending on the size of the class.
3. Form small groups and instruct each group to discuss what they read using these topics: circumstances surrounding the resurrection of Jesus; what Job said in relation to resurrection; and God's affirmation and vindication of Jesus as the Messiah. Then ask each small group to share their discussion to the big group.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Ask the following questions. Tell the students to use the masks or emoticons that they have prepared earlier to express their feelings.

- a. How would you explain Job's declaration of his Redeemer's being alive in relation to Jesus' resurrection? (Job's words seem to foretell the resurrection of the Messiah or Redeemer.)
 - b. What facts or ideas point to the meaning and significance of the resurrection of Jesus based from the readings? (Answers may vary.)
 - c. Having identified the meaning and significance of the resurrection, think of how this affects or strengthens your faith. What does the fact that Jesus resurrected have to do with how you live your life today? (Answers may vary.)
2. Tell the class to explain this: "By raising Jesus from the dead, God showed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah."
 3. Showing the seed and the seedling. Ask: "Can you differentiate between the seed and the seedling? What do you think is the relationship of these things to Jesus' death and resurrection?" Explain: "Like the seed that has to be buried to sprout and grow, Jesus was buried and rose from the dead. As His followers, we can be assured that there is new life in Jesus."

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: "Recalling the circumstances surrounding Jesus' resurrection, how did God vindicate Jesus and his mission as the Messiah?"

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Ask, "If Jesus had victory over death, is there anything that He cannot have victory over?" Tell the students to prayerfully offer to Jesus the "battles" that they need to have victory over such as having difficulty in passing a certain subject/class, difficulty in their relationships, or difficulty letting go of vices.
2. Ask the students to greet each other "Happy Resurrection! Jesus is Alive!"

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering: After giving their offering, tell the students to express what makes him/her joyful today other than understanding the meaning and significance Jesus' resurrection.
2. Closing song: "He Lives" (HFJ #164)
3. Closing prayer: "May our lives prove to be useful to Jesus' resurrection. May our lips continue to proclaim Jesus is risen, our works manifest Jesus obedience to God, and our lives channels of love and life for the people we relate with. In Christ's name, we ardently pray. Amen."

Adult Level

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. describe the circumstances surrounding the resurrection of Jesus;
2. explain the meaning and significance of Jesus' resurrection;
3. relate what Job tells with the resurrection of Jesus;
4. point out how God used the resurrection to affirm and vindicate Jesus' role as the Messiah, and
5. confirm that when Jesus is raised from the dead by God, his role of being the Messiah is approved by God.

II. Concept: God vindicates Jesus and his mission as the Messiah.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), hymnal, activity sheet, meta-cards, pen

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome and handshakes
2. Opening prayer: "God of life, we come today to happily celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Be with us once again through the Holy Spirit to help us fully understand what it means to celebrate this joyous occasion especially in this present time and context. In Christ' name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening song: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" (HFJ # 163)

B. Getting Ready

Ask the adults to share one significant thing they did during the holy week and explain why it is important for them. Have them greet each other, "Happy Resurrection! Jesus is alive!"

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the class to read Job 19:25-27 and Luke 24:1-14 meditatively. Ask them to relate what Job said in relation to Jesus' resurrection and note insights from the bible readings.

2. Distribute copies of an excerpt from Dr. Levi V. Oracion's essay on resurrection, "Unless a Seed Falls and Dies", Commentaries on the UCCP Statement of Faith.

The Meaning and Significance of the Resurrection Faith

But, what for us, believers, is the supreme importance of Jesus' resurrection from the dead?

First, the resurrection means the conquest of death - the ultimate enemy of life. The resurrection of Jesus is God's assurance that death does not end all and is not the ultimate end of life. Therefore, the verities that come with the Gospel - truth, justice, love, peace will never be eradicated from the bosom of the human breast, but will ultimately prevail. It means that death no longer holds the terror that it does to ordinary mortals-because the resurrected Christ has ended its power to those who believe in Christ. So Paul exclaims, "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" (I Corinthians 15: 55).

Second, the resurrection of Jesus Christ grants the believer an extraordinary courage to stand for truth, love and justice inasmuch as one holds on to the

knowledge of God's abiding truth and power. This is true even for those who are faced with certain death for they do see behind death's illusory claim to finality, and can welcome death to sweep over them. In the resurrection of Jesus, the power of death has been abolished and the appeal of its kingdom abrogated, and therefore they can face death with extraordinary courage and peace of mind.

Third, the resurrection of Jesus Christ creates a huge and powerful hope in the heart and mind of the believer because it pierces through the finality of the veil of death and makes a conquest of every obstacle that stands in the way of the believer as he/she carries on with the mission of the church. Because of the resurrection, Christian faith is perceived as hope through and through and sees every opposition - minor or major, as mere occasions for the exemplification of Christian courage and determination.

Fourth, in the resurrection of Jesus, the present world important as it is, is perceived in its transient character, for as the letter to the Hebrews says "for here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come." The perceived transience of the present world does not suggest to the believer that it is robbed of its importance and significance, for it is the terrain on which the battle for humanity and life is fought. It is where truth, justice, love and freedom should be struggled for, upheld as the real sovereign over all life and the whole of history. It is the place where the original covenant of God with all of humanity should be striven for. Nonetheless, it does not have finality for those who believe, for they still wait for the city that is yet to come.

Fifth, the resurrection of Jesus assures us that there is a process of liberation that is now going on in our lives and in our history which has been defined for us in an essential way in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. The ministry of Jesus has laid out for us the way of the world as well as the way of Christ and the ongoing conflict that goes on between them, a conflict in which the followers of Christ are caught and seek to carry forth now and into the future. History is a terrain of struggle for truth, justice, freedom, love and peace. The believers in the crucified and resurrected Lord are necessarily involved and drawn into that struggle. As people who belong to the body of Christ, they too must wage that struggle in the same manner that Christ did.

Sixth, the resurrection of Jesus projects into the future "a new heaven and a new earth." There, those who died in the faith will be garbed in the habiliments of "incorruptibility" in a human community that has been transformed by the power the resurrected Lord.

Yet, for all these, the resurrection faith does not proclaim a triumphalism that rides roughshod over all opposition because it draws its power from the crucified Lord who took the form of a suffering servant and waged his battle through suffering love that culminated with his death on the cross. Thus, what it proclaims is not a cheap and easy Christianity. It is one that makes a creative and significant rejoinder with its Lord who was resolute and faithful to the very end to God's way of suffering love in passing judgment upon sin and evil and in luring authentic humanity to its highest possible expression. This is a very important dimension of the resurrection. Oftentimes, the followers of Jesus mistakenly take the era of the resurrection to signify the end of the cross and all that it is associated with. Thus, they behave like world conquerors.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Tell the class to briefly share insights gained from the reading and listening.
2. Continue sharing of insights asking the learners to the following statements:
 - a. God affirmed and vindicated Jesus being the Messiah.
 - b. Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate proof of God's approval on his mission on earth.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: "What is God's purpose for raising Jesus from the dead?"

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

In small groups of three, tell the learners to write on meta-cards three (3) ways to witness to the resurrection faith and take part with God's continuing affirmation and vindication of Jesus' mission through the church.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering by expressing one's joy of affirmation through a phrase and share what makes him/her joyful today other than understanding the meaning of Jesus Christ's resurrection.
2. Closing song: "We Thank You, God, for Sunday" (HFJ # 170)
3. Closing prayer: "May our lives prove useful to Jesus' resurrection. May our lips continue to proclaim that Jesus is risen. May our works manifest Jesus obedience to God. May our lives be channels of love and life for the people we have relationships. In Christ's name we ardently pray. Amen."