

## “Today: Because of Friday ”

I Peter 4:12-19 Easter Sunday AM, April 5, 2026

**Prelude:** I've Just Seen Jesus **Scripture:** Luke 24:1-12 (NASB95) But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; 5 and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? 6 “He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, 7 saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” 8 And they remembered His words, 9 and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. 11 But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. 12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

Death reigned in the minds and hearts of those who knew and loved Jesus. How do you respond around death? How does it affect your thoughts as you go about the rest of your life? In the middle of the rest of the daily habits—eating, sleeping, daily tasks—going to work, paying the bills, caring for the children, you must stop at the funeral home, pick out a tombstone, and a number of other duties surrounding death. And so it was as the women came to the tomb that Sunday. And yet, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb and the body of the Lord Jesus missing. Perplexion moved to terror as two men in dazzling clothing suddenly were standing next to them asking them why they sought the living among the dead. He has risen. Believing, their words, they left to tell the others. Sing their news that we celebrate today. Christ is risen!

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): Christ, He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed**

Just a few short moments to deal with the incredulous and the impossible and yet they believed. Okay, but when they told the great apostles, the women’s words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. Now what do you do with your experience? The angels referenced a higher authority than themselves. Remember how Jesus spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again? And they remembered His words.” On top of the supernatural, there had been the natural—words from the One they had trusted. And all He had said took place, so why not the rise again part? For all the apostles failure to believe, Peter ran to the tomb and saw it as they had said, and he marveled!

Praise the Lord for these accounts given us to speak to our doubts. Rise My Soul, the Lord is Risen!

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): Rise My Soul, the Lord is Risen**

**\*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn**

**Choir: Worthy is the Lamb**

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 4:12-19 (NASB95) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; 16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? 19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

**Offering: \*Doxology:**

Pastor Jahn will preach not from the Luke passage about the resurrection, but from the I Peter passage just read. It looks like he has his work cut out for him to preach a resurrection message from here. Hope and life DO exist in this passage, but they are tied to sharing the sufferings of Christ. The rejoicing takes place at the revelation of Christ’s glory. The passage ends, “those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.” Remember Jesus’ final words from the cross? Father, into Thy hands I commit My Spirit. It is God’s plan to redeem that led to the death of the Son. The power to raise Him from the dead shows His sacrifice was acceptable and we can be united with Christ in newness of life. Glory to God for all we receive from the risen Christ.

**\*Hymn #227: Thine Is the Glory**

You may be seated. Why do we need to hear about suffering on a day celebrating resurrection and life? As Pastor Jahn preaches, think on the words—did He not say that He must suffer? According to the Peter passage, the key to rejoicing now lies with sharing the sufferings of Christ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Do you want hope in your suffering? Then suffer as a Christian and according to the will of God. How? By looking past the suffering and entrusting your soul to a faithful Creator as you do His will—what is right. Why do you rejoice? Because of the finished work of Christ that guarantees those who trust His words fellowship that extends through eternity. Suffer with Him now and reign with Him then. Sing this familiar hymn not merely as a hope in death song, but a song that values fellowship with God as the only true thing needed to live with resurrection hope in this broken world. Abide with me.

**\*Hymn #419: Abide with Me**

**Message: “Today: Because of Friday ” I Peter 4:12-19**

**\*Hymn #213: Because He Lives \*Prayer**