

# RESURRECTION SUNDAY

April 5, 2026

## “When Mourning Becomes Dancing”

### Introduction: The Alexamenos Graffito

In 1857, the Christian art historian Raffaele Garrucci discovered an ancient piece of graffiti scratched into the wall of a building on the Palatine Hill. The image in the graffiti dating to roughly AD 200 depicts a man, possibly a Roman soldier, with his hand raised in worship towards a crucified figure with the head of a donkey. The inscription reads: ΑΛΕΞΑΜΕΝΟC CEBETE ΘΕΟΝ (“Alexamenos worships [his] God”), which was intended as an insult towards this man and his faith.

1 Cor. 15:14,17-19—<sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain... <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

**Main Point: Our seasons of \_\_\_\_\_ can give way to great \_\_\_\_\_ because of the resurrection of Christ!**

## John 20

In the aftermath of Jesus’ crucifixion, the followers of Jesus experienced the extremes of human emotion, moving from horror and shock to bewilderment and rejoicing. The Gospel of John records numerous appearances of the Lord as well as the responses of His followers.

### 1. **Initially, most of the followers of Jesus did not understand the significance of the empty tomb. (v. 1-9)**

⇒ Peter and John responded to the news from Mary and the other women by going to the tomb.

⇒ While most were confused at these events, John \_\_\_\_\_ because of what Scripture foretold.

**Key Point: It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God that leads us to true belief in Jesus Christ.**

### 2. **The Lord then appeared to Mary Magdalene. (vv. 11-18)**

⇒ Mary’s response to the empty tomb was great weeping.

⇒ The Lord met her in her lamentation and then \_\_\_\_\_ her to tell the others what she had seen.

**Key Point: The Lord knows us \_\_\_\_\_ and can meet us in our times of sorrow.**

### 3. **That evening, Jesus appeared to ten of the disciples. (vv. 19-23)**

⇒ The disciples were meeting in secret because they were afraid of those who had killed Jesus.

⇒ The Lord promised them both His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for the task ahead.

**Key Point: Knowing Christ can replace our fear with \_\_\_\_\_.**

**4. Eight days later, He appeared to all eleven disciples. (vv. 24-29)**

- ⇒ The disciple Thomas’ initial response to the news of the Lord’s appearing was doubt.
- ⇒ The Lord directly addressed Thomas’ doubts with the undeniable \_\_\_\_\_ of His bodily resurrection.
- ⇒ Thomas’ response was a proper acknowledgment of Jesus’ true \_\_\_\_\_.

**Key Point:** The Lord Jesus is powerful enough to \_\_\_\_\_ our doubts and \_\_\_\_\_ enough to forgive them.

**5. These events demand a response from us! (vv. 30-31)**

- ⇒ We are exhorted to place our faith in Jesus!

*He is the \_\_\_\_\_!*

*He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God!*

“It was no dishonor, besides, to the body of Christ, that after the resurrection it bore the visible marks of his wounds in his hands, feet, and side; nor will it disgrace it in the least, if he shall be pleased to bear them on the great day of final judgment: For those marks are indications of his glorious triumph over death, as a conquered enemy.” —Herman Witsius (17th c.)

**Key Point:** Because Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_, we who believe can be assured that no matter what we face in life, we too will live \_\_\_\_\_ with Him!

**Concluding Thoughts**

- **Though we have much to lament in this world, we know that Jesus Christ is with us always and will one day bring us into His \_\_\_\_\_ forever!**

Psa. 30:4-5—<sup>4</sup> Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. <sup>5</sup> For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Psa. 30:11-12—<sup>11</sup> You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, <sup>12</sup> that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

- **Until that day, we are called to \_\_\_\_\_ faithfully the hardships of life in a fallen world by the power and in the joy of the Holy Spirit.**

1 Cor. 15:54-58—<sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

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**Main Point: Our seasons of lament can give way to great rejoicing because of the resurrection of Christ!**

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**Key Point: It is the Word of God that leads us to true belief in Jesus Christ.**

### **2. The Lord then appeared to Mary Magdalene. (vv. 11-18)**

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⇒ The Lord met her in her lamentation and then sent her to tell the others what she had seen.

**Key Point: The Lord knows us personally and can meet us in our times of sorrow.**

### **3. That evening, Jesus appeared to ten of the disciples. (vv. 19-23)**

⇒ The disciples were meeting in secret because they were afraid of those who had killed Jesus.

⇒ The Lord promised them both His authority and power for the task ahead.

**Key Point: Knowing Christ can replace our fear with peace.**

#### 4. Eight days later, He appeared to all eleven disciples. (vv. 24-29)

- ⇒ The disciple Thomas' initial response to the news of the Lord's appearing was doubt.
- ⇒ The Lord directly addressed Thomas' doubts with the undeniable fact of His bodily resurrection.
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**Key Point:** The Lord Jesus is powerful enough to answer our doubts and gracious enough to forgive them.

#### 5. These events demand a response from us! (vv. 30-31)

- ⇒ We are exhorted to place our faith in Jesus!

*He is the Messiah!*

*He is the Son of God!*

“It was no dishonor, besides, to the body of Christ, that after the resurrection it bore the visible marks of his wounds in his hands, feet, and side; nor will it disgrace it in the least, if he shall be pleased to bear them on the great day of final judgment: For those marks are indications of his glorious triumph over death, as a conquered enemy.”  
—Herman Witsius

**Key Point:** Because Jesus is alive, we who believe can be assured that no matter what we face in life, we too will live forever with Him!

### Concluding Thoughts

- Though we have much to lament in this world, we can rejoice in faith because Jesus has overcome our greatest enemies.

Psa. 30:4-5—<sup>4</sup> Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. <sup>5</sup> For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

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