

Colossians 3:1-4

April 5, 2026

**“Since You Have Been Raised with Christ...”
The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Day**

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Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Amen! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1).

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! And you, yes you, you have been raised with Christ! *Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!*

In his epistle to the Colossians, St. Paul makes it clear that he is writing to a very special people. A people wonderfully loved and blessed by God.

These Colossians, for the most part, were taken out of the world. They were Gentiles. They were previously heathens. And they faced daily temptations to return to their worldly, sinful ways. Throughout this epistle, Paul warns the Colossians about not being sucked back into thinking about themselves and their previous lives, according to the principles of the world. He says repeatedly, “Don’t be taken captive again by the fallen world!”

But something had changed. They had been changed. They are now buried with Christ through their Baptism into Christ. And not only that. These Colossians have now been raised up together with Christ through the powerful working of God, which raised Jesus from the dead. They are now a very special people, wonderfully loved and wonderfully blessed by God.

Once they were dead in their trespasses and sins, but now they have been made alive with Christ. Every sin has been forgiven through Christ’s shed blood, bodily resurrection and ascension where He is now seated at the right hand of God.

In the waters of Holy Baptism, you, too, were joined to the death and resurrection of Christ. Your old, sinful self was crucified with Him. You were killed and buried in the grave with Jesus. Then, just as Jesus was raised from the dead, the Holy Spirit raised you to new life. God forgave your sins, made you His own child, and saved you! Yes, you! All that God did to you and for you in Holy Baptism. Your resurrection life has already begun in you through your Baptism into Christ.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

This morning as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord, ponder again who you are.

So, just as Paul writes to the Colossians, he also writes to you: ***“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God”*** (Colossians 3:1).

You see, through your Baptism into Christ, you have been Christened. Jesus now lives in you. So, now through the work of the Holy Spirit through the gifts bestowed in the Means of Grace – *Word and Sacrament*, you now think the way of Christ and do the works of Christ.

This is your true identity. This is your spiritual identity. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, in your Baptism, you no longer think the way of the fallen world. You no longer set your mind on the things of this world. You no longer set your mind on the things of the flesh or of the devil. You have died to those things. You now set your mind to those ***“things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”***

But you still feel the mirror of God’s Law. You still feel the guilt and shame of your sin. You still feel sinful and unclean through your thoughts and actions.

Although your old sinful flesh was buried in the waters of Holy Baptism, that old sinful flesh still clings to you. Being Baptized into Christ does not mean that you will never be tempted to sin. Being Baptized means that the crucified and resurrected Jesus is joined to you and lives in you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

When the Holy Spirit brought you to faith, He joined you to Christ and made you a personal partaker in Christ’s death and bodily resurrection. God now regards Christ’s death as if it were your death and credits His death to you. God then raised you from spiritual death to spiritual life, setting you free from the power of sin by bestowing peace, joy, and forgiveness in Christ.

In Holy Baptism, you and I were transformed and changed inwardly so that yours and my heart would be set on those things above. Those heavenly things. Those spiritual treasures.

And what are these spiritual treasures? They are forgiveness, spiritual knowledge, faith, and the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Such treasures are now to be the real concerns of those “raised with Christ.”

In the verses that follow in Colossians 3, Paul instructs the Colossian Christians – as well as us today – with ways in which we live the Christian life. He writes, ***“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ... You must put away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator”*** (Colossians 3:5, 8-10).

Instead, as God’s redeemed people, Paul says: ***“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive”*** (Colossians 2:12-13). This is what it means seeking the things that are above: when someone has sinned against you, go and tell him his fault, and if he repents, unconditionally forgive him, just as Christ has forgiven you.

When you were baptized, you received the forgiveness of your sins and received the gift of the Holy Spirit. You were joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus and you were given new life and eternal life through Him. This is God’s promise. And He fulfills every promise!

But you may still think where is Jesus in me? I don’t feel Him? Where is He? He is hidden. Paul says this simply: ***“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God”*** (Colossians 3:3).

So, just as Jesus was first hidden to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary as they went to the tomb that first Easter, He later revealed Himself to them and to the the disciples. Today, Jesus is hidden in you just as He is veiled under bread and wine in the Supper.

But one day, Christ will fully come and be fully revealed, and you will be revealed with Him in glory! Just think about that thought! One day, Jesus, who was crucified and risen and ascended, who sits at the right hand of God the Father in heaven, is coming. He is coming again! The time and date no one knows on this side of heaven. But He is coming! He will come down from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God. He will come in great glory.

Your life that was hidden with Christ will be fully revealed! When Christ returns, you will be revealed with Him in glory!

Today, on this Resurrection of Our Lord Day, we celebrate Jesus, who was crucified in our place, who paid for our sins, who also died our death, and who was raised from the dead for us! And through the waters of Holy Baptism, He has raised us to new resurrection life! By water and the Word, He made us children of God, and so we are! And when Christ returns, we will be revealed with Him in glory!

In the meantime, seek those things that are above, where Christ is. Seek after them. You will only find true treasure in Christ.

As we hear the Word of and about Christ proclaimed on this Easter and those mini-Easters each Sunday morning and Monday evening here at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Jesus enters us and dwells in us. His Word enters us and dwells in us. This Word of His life: His compassion, His obedience, His preaching, His teaching, His atoning death, His victorious resurrection, His ascension into heaven, His present reign, His coming again, and His eternal kingdom. The Word of Christ dwells in us richly. And as it does, God renews us in His image, the image of Christ as God's beloved children. And when Christ who is your life appears, you too, will appear with Him in glory! When He appears, you will see who you truly are. You will be like Jesus, who was dead and is now alive again, for you will see Him as He is!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

*The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

+ SOLI DEO GLORIA +