

“ . . . Just As He Told You.”

“Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!”

We make that glorious announcement with great confidence on Easter Sunday morning. After the forty-day build-up of Lent and the dramatic darkness of Good Friday, those words can feel like “brand new” good news. But, of course, we Christians have heard this news before. In fact, we’ve heard it many times, more times than we can count.

Jesus’ disciples had also heard this news, *before* that first Easter Sunday morning, for Jesus had told them what was going to happen. In the Easter accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the angel at the tomb didn’t just announce Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. He also pointed them back to what Jesus had already told them: “He is not here, for he has risen, *as he said*” (Matthew 28:6); “But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, *just as he told you*” (Mark 16:7); “He is not here, but has risen. *Remember how he told you, . . .*” (Luke 24:6). John writes that these things had also been foretold in the Old Testament, but “as yet they did not understand *the Scripture*, that he must rise from the dead” (John 20:9).

So what was with those disciples? Why didn’t they connect the dots? They had seen Jesus raise people from the dead, including their good friend, Lazarus; was it really that much of a stretch to believe Him when He said that He would also rise? Why weren’t they looking forward to that “third day” that Jesus had told them was coming? Had the horrors of Jesus’ grisly death on Friday wiped His words from their minds?

We can only imagine what was going on in the minds of the disciples in those days. We can only wonder at the reasons why God Himself didn’t bring Jesus’ words back to their minds until the angel made his announcement at the tomb. But we know, from personal experience, how easy it can be for us to let this unique message slip out of our daily grasp.

“Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!” To us, those words can be “same old same old,” the same old words, the same old story. We may have heard those words so many times before that we hardly listen to them anymore. By Easter Sunday afternoon, we may be listening to and thinking of other things, letting those precious words pass out of sight and out of mind.

But, “Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!” Remember, those words do not just announce a *past* event that we revisit once a year. They also announce a very clear and present promise of God, for they point to what is going to happen in the *future*. Jesus told Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die” (John 11:25-26). St Paul explains, “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then *at his coming* those who belong to Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:22-23).

Did you get that? “*At his coming*”! When Jesus comes again—and He is coming again!—then all who have died believing in Jesus as Savior and Lord will rise from the dead. Why? Because “Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!”

Believe it! Sing it! Say it! Share it! For it’s going to happen, just as He told you!

**Gather with the Family of God as we continue our celebrations of Jesus’ Resurrection every Sunday throughout the year!
Easter may be a “big” Sunday, but every Sunday is a “Little Easter”!**