

**I Am the Resurrection & the Life**

John 11:17-27

Easter is the Sunday on which Christians around the world celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. His resurrection is a central part of the Gospel message—the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all humanity—to address the problem of sin, which results in alienation or separation from God, the source of all blessing, life, and goodness.

Today marks the final session of the sermon series, ***Jesus' "I Am"—What It Means for You Today***, titled ***"I Am the Resurrection and the Life."***

As we seek to understand the meaning of Christ's statement, ***"I am the resurrection and the life,"*** take a moment to quietly reflect on the following questions: ***What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ mean to you? How do you understand His resurrection in relation to your own life? How can you live out the reality of His resurrection in your daily life?***

Right before Passion Week, Jesus Christ was staying in Perea—beyond the Jordan River—to escape the growing hostility in Jerusalem. There, He received news that His beloved friend Lazarus of Bethany had died. It took about a day to travel from Perea to Bethany, so one day had already passed since Lazarus's death. However, Jesus did not return immediately. Instead, He waited for two more days. By the time He arrived in Bethany, four days had passed, including the additional day of travel.

Why did Jesus wait for two days and then arrive after four days?

In the Jewish tradition of that time, it was commonly believed that the soul hovered near the body for three days, hoping to re-enter it. By the fourth day, decay had begun, and the soul was considered to have fully departed.

Through this timing, Jesus seemed to be conveying a clear message: Lazarus's resurrection was real, and only in Him and through Him can people find resurrection and life.

Martha said to Jesus, ***"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*** (John 11:21). So, Jesus responded, ***"Your brother will rise again."*** (John 11:23). Martha said to him, ***"I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."*** (John 11:24). Martha held a traditional understanding of the resurrection, showing that she did not yet fully recognize who Jesus Christ was.

In response, Jesus gently corrected her misunderstanding. “**I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?**” (John 11:25-26).

The resurrection is not merely something that will occur in the future after your death. As Jesus said, “**I am the resurrection and the life,**” resurrection is not just an event—it is a Person, Jesus Christ. Because Jesus Christ is present, the power of the resurrection is also present. He is the hope for those who will face death and the source of life and vitality for those who are living now.

Let us return to the questions I asked you to reflect on: ***What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ mean to you? How do you understand His resurrection in relation to your own life? How can you live out the reality of His resurrection in your daily life?***

The resurrection can be understood in various ways. However, I believe that Jesus Christ’s statement, “**I am the resurrection and the life,**” ultimately points to our transformation in Christ Jesus.

What is the most surprising transformation human beings can experience?

I believe it is the resurrection from the dead—the transformation of our state from death to life. Therefore, when Jesus said, “**I am the resurrection and the life,**” it is a kind of manifesto: “**I can transform you, and your life can be transformed in Me. You will come to resemble Me and grow to be like Me throughout your life. In the end, you will share in My resurrection, as you are being transformed into My likeness.**”

“**And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.**”(2 Corinthians 3:18).

“**Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.**” (1 John 3:2)

Jesus Christ’s being our resurrection means that we can be transformed in Him.

Have you ever watched the TV program **Supernanny**? The show first aired in the UK in 2004 and stars professional nanny Jo Frost.

In each episode, Jo visits a home and spends the first day silently observing the

family's "natural" (often chaotic) dynamics. She then confronts the parents about their inconsistent discipline or lack of structure and introduces well-known methods such as the time-out chair and structured bedtime routines. After coaching the parents through these changes, she leaves them to manage on their own for a few days before returning for a final assessment.

I used to watch the program because it focused on problem-solving and helping families with parenting. As I watched, I learned two simple lessons. **First**, many of the children's problems stem from their parents' behavior. If parents use inappropriate language or expose their children to unhealthy habits, the children tend to follow in their footsteps. **Second**, the way to address these problems is for parents to show consistent love and to model healthy living alongside their children. Love becomes the agent of transformation.

Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life. Only in Him can our lives be truly transformed. And it is through our love for others that the world begins to experience that same transformation.

Do you remember the mission of the United Methodist Church? The Book of Discipline declares: "[The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.](#)" (*The Book of Discipline 2020/2024*, ¶ 120). We must never forget that the true agent of this transformation is the love of Christ. And that love is entrusted to us. The transformation of the world is carried out through lives that embody His love.

What happened after Jesus revealed His power of resurrection and new life by raising Lazarus? Bethany was only about two miles from Jerusalem, and the news spread quickly. But that miracle did not simply inspire faith—it also provoked opposition. Jesus' act of transformation led the Sanhedrin to decide to put Him to death (John 11:53), setting in motion the events of Holy Week and ultimately the cross.

So let us remember this: the Gospel we proclaim—that Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life—is not always welcomed by the world. When we live it out faithfully, it may bring resistance, rejection, even suffering.

But this is the way the world is transformed.

Through Christ.

Through love.

Through lives that are being transformed into His likeness.