



DAILY FAITH PRACTICES

Easter (A) – Colossians 3:1-4

Focus: *Live as Easter People*

word of life

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:2-3 NRSV)

Read Colossians 3:1-4

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Today we tell, through word and instruments and voice, the good news of the resurrection. It's a familiar story for most of us. So why tell it each year?

1. *Why do we tell the Easter story?*
2. *What are some of the ways you have heard the story told?*

We tell the Easter story because it is *our* story; it includes us. When we are baptized, we are joined to Christ's death and resurrection. As we come out of the waters, God promises that what God has done in Christ, God has done for each of us. Our text for today says it this way: “for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:3 NRSV)

3. *Why would the author of Colossians say, “You have died,” to people who are physically alive?*
4. *What does this mean to you?*

To live a life “hidden with Christ in God” is to experience a life-long journey with Christ as our constant companion. It is to have Christ walk with us in all times and experiences of life—past, present, and future. Since Christ walked through suffering and death on the cross, we have confidence that Christ will walk with us in our suffering and death. And since Christ has walked through the open door of the tomb, we have confidence that we, too, will be raised from death. The Christ crucified is also the Christ raised from death. This gives hope to all who experience suffering and rejection. It promises life in times of death. “When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:4 NRSV)

5. *How have you experienced the risen Christ walking with you?*

The resurrection is not just a future reality and promise. It defines how we are to live—both now and in the future. Our reading from Colossians uses the “if/then” theme to articulate this life-defining thought: “So if you have been raised with Christ, [then] seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” (Colossians 3:1 NRSV) In our baptism, we have been raised with Christ. This compels and propels us to “seek the things that are above” as we live our baptism.

6. *What are “things that are above?”*
7. *How do we “live our baptism?”*

“Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” (Colossians 3:2 NRSV) Death, suffering, injustice, oppression are all things on earth. Christ suffered and died and experienced these “earthly” things, so we on earth do not face them alone. Christ's death has put to death the powers of death. And Christ's resurrection has let loose on the world the power of Christ who is “seated at the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1b)—the power of life, hope, justice, and freedom—things that are above.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Word *among us*

The priest had spent his entire ministry in El Salvador among the poor and the oppressed. He had witnessed the ravages of civil war as well as the despair of poverty and oppression. His work had been difficult.

And yet, there he was—quiet, smiling, unassuming—leading a discussion on the topic of *hope*. The question was asked, “How do you face all the poverty and oppression around you each day and not be discouraged?” There was a slight pause before he answered. “One word answers your question. That word is *resurrection*. As Christians, we have hope. The resurrection is a Christian response to a lasting question of justice for the victims of the world.”

1. *In what way is the resurrection “a Christian response to a lasting question of justice for the victims of the world”?*
2. *Where do you find hope in your life?*

The resurrection is God’s answer to death and despair. We as Christians live on the Easter side of the grave. And that perspective makes all the difference in how we are to live. “So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” (Colossians 3:1-2 NRSV) We live as Easter people, knowing that death and the things of this earth are not the final words spoken by God. Hope, life, love, justice, freedom—these are the things that are above and the themes of the lyrics sung every Easter.

3. *What does it mean to live as Easter people?*
4. *Recall hymns sung on Easter Sunday in your worship services. What themes do you hear?*

faith practice in daily life

Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed

In the liturgy for the affirmation of baptism, the question is asked, “Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism?” (*Lutheran Worship, page 236*) The question is expanded to embrace the faith practices in daily life, including the call to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.

It all begins for us at baptism, where we are joined to Christ and are given the power and promise of Christ’s death and resurrection. The writer of Colossians says it this way: “...for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:3 NRSV) This good news changes our perspective and our way of living. Thanks be to God!

5. *Reflect on how our baptism and the good news of the resurrection changes our perspective and our way of living.*
6. *What are ways to daily live as Easter people?*

Prayer

O God of life, we give you thanks for the resurrection of Christ and for our baptism where we are given the hope and promise of the resurrection. Help us live as Easter people. Amen

last word

Each morning make a commitment to live
as an Easter person.