

Eastertide Reflection
Practicing Resurrection
Rev. Michelle Bodle

Scripture: John 11: 25-26 (NRSV)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. [a] 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?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, [g] the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

1 Cor 15: 12-32 (NRSV)

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised.

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "All things are put in subjection," it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.

Otherwise, what will those people do who receive baptism on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?

And why are we putting ourselves in danger every hour? I die every day! That is as certain, brothers and sisters, as my boasting of you—a boast that I make in Christ Jesus our Lord. If with merely human hopes I fought with wild animals at Ephesus, what would I have gained by it? If the dead are not raised,

*"Let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die."*

Reflection:

As Christians we claim the resurrection of Jesus Christ as a central tenant to our faith. We proclaim this truth for ourselves at funerals when we make statements such as “Dying, Christ destroyed our death. Rising, Christ restored our life” and “Receive us also and raise us to a new life.”

However, we often skip the next line in the funeral liturgy, “Help us to so love and serve you in this world that we may enter into your joy in the world to come.” We like the concept of the afterlife, but the idea of bringing the power of the resurrection to our world today simply seems like too much work. We would rather talk about the Kingdom to come, not the Kingdom of God among us now.

The Easter Season, like Lent, lasts 40 days, not simply one Sunday on the Church calendar. What would it look like to claim the power of the resurrection in our own lives, in our Church, in our community, and in our World over that time as we journey together in faith?

Reflection Questions:

- When you hear the word “resurrection” what comes to your mind?
- How can we, as the people of God, live into the present reality of resurrection in our lives?
- What would the resurrection of our community for the sake of the Kingdom of God look like?
- How do you love and serve the world differently because of Christ’s resurrection? In other words, how do you practice the resurrection?

Resource:

“Services of Death and Resurrection” in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992).