**Isaiah 25: 6-9 (Joan Miller); I Corinthians 15: 1-11(Joan); Mark 16: 1-8**

**Sermon:  “The New Day”**

**Isaiah 25:6-9**

**New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

**6**On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
    a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
    of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
**7**And he will destroy on this mountain
    the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
    the covering that is spread over all nations;
**8**     he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
    and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
    for the Lord has spoken.
**9** It will be said on that day,
    “See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
    This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
    let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

**Commentary:**

What a great Easter Sunday scripture.  I have long loved these verses from Isaiah which describe the realm of God in such comforting terms.  The holy mountain is often used the identify God’s dwelling place (heaven).  Here we see the absolute goodness to be where God lives.  “On this mountain” the great banquet of nations is spread (an allusion to the communion meal);  the covering of suffering and sorrow will be removed;  more, death itself will be swallowed up in victory!  (We have experienced this through the risen Jesus)

More, our Creator and divine Parent wipes away tears from our faces, and restores us to the original beauty and goodness God intended when we were created in God’s very image—no sin, no doubt, no fear, no guilt or lies or misunderstanding of who we are and the meaning of our lives. God is good.  All the time!  All the time.  God is \_\_\_\_\_\_.

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**1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

**New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

**The Resurrection of Christ**

**15** Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, **2** through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

**3** For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures 4 and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. **8** Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. **9** For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. **11** Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

**Commentary:**

Now Paul states the basic belief of our faith:  “Christ died for our sins, Christ was buried and Christ rose from the dead and appeared to many.”  This is the basic teaching and preaching of the gospel.  Thanks be to God for the amazing grace and truth that we are who we are by the mercy and love of our Maker!  This is the good news that my family and all the saints have passed on to me.  It is my call and highest honor to pass it on to you. O God of all glory, what a wonderful way of salvation!

God is good…

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**Mark 16:1-8**

**New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

**The Resurrection of Jesus**

**16** When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. **2**And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. **3** They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” **4** When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. **5**As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. **6**But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. **7** But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” **8**So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**The Intermediate Ending of Mark**

[[And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterward Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation. Amen.]]]

Footnotes

1. [16.8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+16%3A+1-8&version=NRSVUE#en-NRSVUE-24874) Some of the most ancient authorities bring the book to a close at the end of [16.8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark.16.8&version=NRSVUE). One authority concludes the book with the intermediate ending; others include the intermediate ending and then continue with [16.9–20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark.16.9-Mark.16.20&version=NRSVUE). In most authorities [16.9–20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark.16.9-Mark.16.20&version=NRSVUE) follow immediately after [16.8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark.16.8&version=NRSVUE); in some of these authorities the passage is marked as being doubtful.
2. [16.8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+16%3A+1-8&version=NRSVUE#en-NRSVUE-24874) Other ancient authorities lack *Amen*

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The Confirmands have written a “Statement of Belief” that we are using as our statement of faith in worship this Easter.  It is a beautiful confession that reflects the goodness, love and faith of these young people whom we are blessed to have in our midst. Thank you to the class of Kira and Maddie…and their teachers and mentors:  Joan, Mary and Bambi.  What an honor to be serving with such people in the sacred cause of the gospel! Here is their statement which reflects the sparkle in the Christian Life which is possible because Jesus was raised on this day!

\*Statement of Belief (written by the Confirmation Class – 2024)

“We are children of God, our Creator, who loves us and provides for us. He loves and forgives us. We believe in Jesus Christ who is our Savior and Teacher.  He died for our sins. We believe that the Holy Spirit guides us to be loving and caring.  The Holy Spirit is always present. We believe in sharing our kindness by putting ***sparkle*** into other people’s lives.”

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