

EASTER SUNDAY - 2026

Easter Sunday: Why Today Is the Best of Days!

Faith Church of Linden

By Daniel Patz on April 5, 2026

1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-18

The following notes are a draft of my sermon. These are not my pulpit notes or a manuscript I use to preach with but something I type up before writing out my "pulpit notes". I hope they are helpful.

When my kids were little, on Saturday night or Sunday morning I would ask them:

Saints of God, what day is this? IT IS THE LORD'S DAY!

Why is it the Lord's Day? BECAUSE CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD ON THIS DAY!

What kind of day is it? IT IS A GIFT THAT IS GLORIOUS AND JOYFUL!

Today is Easter—the day we celebrate the resurrection, the raising of Jesus Christ from the dead!

Do you truly believe this is a glorious and joyful day because of His resurrection? Are you living your life—your actions, affections, and decisions—based on the reality of that day?

Let's read the Word together: **1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (ESV)**

"Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me."

The **Gospel** is Good News—to be preached, received, stood in, and held fast to. By it we are being saved. At its core: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, He was buried, and **He was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Old Testament Scriptures.

Is today really the best of days?

Let me give you **Scriptural reasons** to think upon—and feast upon—**Reasons Today Is the Best of Days**:

Today is the Best of Days:

1. Because God Fulfilled His Promises and Proved Christ Is the Messiah

1 Corinthians 15:12-14 ESV Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? (13) But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. (14) And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

Jesus rose to fulfill Old Testament prophecies and His own words, publicly declaring Him as the promised Messiah and Son of God.

- **God knows and controls the world and the future.** How else could He foretell events centuries in advance and then bring them to pass? (Psalm 16:10 ESV: “For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.” Peter and Paul applied this directly to Jesus—His body did not see decay.)
- **God is faithful to keep His promises. His Word can always be trusted!** (Luke 24:44-46 ESV: “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.”)
- **Jesus is the true King of the world. He is not a well-intentioned martyr.** (Romans 1:4 ESV: “...and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.”)
- **Jesus is alive and the only way to the Father—the only name for salvation.** (Acts 2:32 ESV: “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.”)

Questions for reflection:

How does the fulfillment of ancient prophecies strengthen your trust in God’s Word today? If Jesus is the risen Messiah and King, what area of your life needs to come under His authority right now?

2. Because God Saved Us from Our Sins and Gave Us Eternal Life

1 Corinthians 15:15-17 ESV We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. (16) For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. (17) And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Jesus was raised for our justification—His sacrifice was accepted, sins can be forgiven, and eternal life is ours in Him.

- **Jesus' death is more than inspiring martyrdom; it is the true payment for sin that God has fully accepted.** (Romans 4:25 ESV: "...who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.")
- **Jesus is alive and serves as the Great High Priest who intercedes for sinners who have come to Him.** (Hebrews 7:25 ESV – implied in the living Christ's ongoing ministry; see also Romans 8:34.)
- **Eternal life is given now to all who believe in Christ.** This begins in the new birth and regeneration. (John 11:25 ESV: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.'")
- **Eternal life goes on forever for those who believe in Christ**—our inheritance is secure in heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:17 ESV: "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." The positive truth: Because He lives, we are justified and our hope is not in vain.)

Questions for reflection:

If your sins are fully paid for and you stand justified before God, how should that free you from guilt or shame this week? Are you living in the reality of eternal life beginning *now*—or only hoping for it someday?

3. Because God Empowered Us for Purposeful Living

1 Corinthians 15:18-22 ESV Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. (19) If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (20) But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (21) For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

The resurrection releases God's mighty power into believers, transforming us for holy living, bold witness, and global mission.

- **Jesus is alive and has sent His Holy Spirit to be in and with us forever.** (Ephesians 1:19-20 ESV: "...and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead...")
- **Jesus is alive and has sent us on a mission to make disciples of all nations.** (Matthew 28:18-20 ESV: "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...")

- **The Good News (the Gospel) is the message empowered by God to save even the greatest sinners.** (Acts 4:33 – the apostles gave witness with great power; the resurrection fuels the Gospel’s saving power.)
- **The Church is destined to spread the message of His resurrection to the whole world.** (The same power that raised Jesus now works in and through His people for mission and endurance.)

Questions for reflection:

Where do you most need the resurrection power of God in your daily life right now?
How is the risen Christ calling you to participate in His mission this Easter season?

Conclusion

Saints of God—what day is this? **It is the Lord’s Day.** Why is it the Lord’s Day?
Because Christ rose from the dead on this day! What kind of day is it? **It is a gift that is glorious and joyful!**

Is it truly glorious and joyful to you?

It is—only to those who come to the end of themselves, who have repented of their sins and have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

If that’s you, rejoice today! If not, today is the perfect day to turn to the risen Savior. He is alive—and He offers forgiveness, new life, and resurrection power to all who trust in Him.