

of death.” During the message, Pastor Jack challenged us to think about what Jesus meant by these words, “It is finished.” What comes to you mind when you contemplate the meaning of these final words from Jesus on the cross? What do these words mean to you? What emotions surface within you as you think about these words? Write your ideas here.

Thursday, April 13

Read Matthew 28:1-10. Most likely you have your own preconceived notions of what that first Easter morning was like, based on your church experience, movies or other media presentation of the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. What do you cherish most about the resurrection narrative? What portions confound you? Is there anything new that you picked up on from today’s reading about the resurrection? What are your earliest memories of the resurrection? Meditate upon these questions and write your thoughts here.

Friday, April 14

Read Matthew 28:1-10. Pastor Jack mentioned that it is fitting for one of the woman to be unidentified. “The other Mary” is rather non-descriptive and allows us to place ourselves in the narrative. We can then respond to the call that the women received from both the angel of the Lord and Jesus. Three callings: to believe, to share and to rejoice. Thinking of your reflections from yesterday’s devotion, what does the Easter event call you to believe? How do you share those beliefs? How do you rejoice, not only in the gift of resurrection but in these callings from God and Jesus the Christ? Meditate on these questions and write your responses here.

Message Notes – April 9, 2023

Jesus and the Psalms – NOW! It Is Finished! *

- I. There are various feelings and emotions that we are meant to feel during _____ when we commemorate all that happened that last week of Jesus’ life on earth.
 - A. Jesus’ _____ emerges from the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - B. Psalm 22 plays a significant role in creating Jesus’ identity and is directly connected to the events of his last week on earth as _____.
 1. This past Good Friday, we read the first half of Psalm 22 which opens with the words, “My God, my God, why have you _____ me?”
 2. The Psalmist shares a vision of a _____ situation.
 3. Even though verse 11 tells us there is “no one to help” there are words of _____ and expression of _____.
 4. Our God can be trusted, hears our _____ and will _____ us.
- II. Jesus’ _____ words from the cross were, “It is finished!”
 - A. What was Jesus saying? What was finished? Was this a loss of all _____? Was this the completion of Jesus’ work _____ the world, _____ the world?
 1. Jesus was simply recognizing that his _____ on this earth as a flesh and bone person was coming to an end.
 2. Jesus faced death with the conviction that God’s power is greater than _____, itself.
 - B. The _____ in Matthew’s telling of the resurrection is incredible.

*Matthew 28:1-10, Psalm 22:11-31

1. The _____ was not God's or Jesus' final accomplishment.
2. Immediately after the resurrection, _____ and reconciliation has already begun.
3. And why meet in _____?
 - a. Galilee is sometimes referred to as Galilee of the _____; in other words, it is a place of _____.
 - b. The message should be clear the resurrection and resulting reconciliation is for _____!

III. It is fitting that the Matthew tells us of the two women who went to the tomb; the _____ of one of them is not quite _____.

- A. Could that woman represent anyone of ____?
- B. Those two women were _____ to do three things.
 1. They are called to _____.
 2. They are called to _____.
 3. Third, they are called to _____.
- C. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are strengthened to continue Jesus' _____ and _____ in the world.
- D. For God is _____, trustworthy, hears our cries and will _____ us.

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, April 10

Holy Week is truly a roller coaster of emotions and feeling as we watch Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and then the turning over of the money changers' tables in the Temple, the final teachings of Jesus, The Last Supper, the arrest of Jesus, his trial, death and then that period of waiting from Friday evening to Sunday morning. Hopefully, Easter brings a great festival of

praise and thanksgiving as well as opportunities to gather as family and friends to enjoy each other's company and some yummy foods. What emotions have you experienced this past week as we've journeyed with Jesus remembering his last week on earth? How do the more somber experiences this past week affect your appreciation of Easter morning? Contemplate these questions and write your reflections here.

Tuesday, April 11

Read Psalm 22. This is an incredible Psalm, not only in terms of its insightfulness into human suffering but that it expressed deep and abiding faith in our God who is present to us, trustworthy and will deliver us. The first half of the Psalm is fully appropriate for Good Friday as we commemorate Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. It is easy to draw parallels between what the writer is experiencing to what Jesus experienced in his excruciating last hours on earth. Even in the midst of suffering the writer of this Psalm is thankful for God's goodness and faithfulness to God's people. Psalm 22 is nearly perfect as a personal lament that then extends its scope to the larger community, the congregation of the faithful. When you are feeling down and out, in a place in your life that is not good, what can you say about our God that inspires you? How do you find hope in those seemingly hopeless times? Write your thought here and perhaps think about what you might write as a personal lament.

Wednesday, April 12

Read Psalm 22 and John 19:28-30. Jesus' last words from the cross were, "It is finished!" The Gospel of John recorded these final words of Jesus from the cross. They actually echo words from our Psalm 22, verse 15: "my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust