

APRIL 12, 2020



*Easter is going to be a little different this year.*

How could it not be? With the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping across the nation and most states currently under a shelter-in-place order, maintaining our cherished Easter traditions has become all but impossible. Most churches will observe Easter Sunday in an online-only format this year (as will we).

But then again, the first Easter was a little different too. Dead men don't rise! Our common human experience says once a body is laid to rest, that's it. No more gatherings. No more conversations. Not in this life anyway. At least that was the case, until that first glorious Easter Sunday morning when a dead God/man did rise. And in so doing, He defeated death and Hell forever. Those enemies are now but fangless, clawless specters to all who know the Lord. They can scare us. They can trouble us. But they cannot ultimately hurt us, because **Christ the Lord is risen from the grave.**

The coronavirus is like that too. It can trouble us. It can hurt us. It can tank the stock market and inflict loneliness, anxiety, and uncertainty. It can even take our loved ones from us. But that's the worst it can do, because **Christ the Lord is risen from the grave.** The coronavirus can never separate us from God's love (Rom. 8:31-39). It cannot even change the fact that God has already blessed us with every spiritual blessing, promised us an unfading

inheritance, and positionally seated us in the heavens with Christ (Eph. 1:3-14; 2:1-6). The coronavirus looks very scary to us right now, but in the grand scheme of things its influence is quite limited. One day God will effortlessly sweep it away along with every other sickness, pain, trial, and atrocity of this life, and He will replace it with all that is good and pure and joyful. And the greatest news imaginable is that you and I will be there to see it, because **Christ the Lord is risen from the grave.**

Yes, Easter is going to be a little different this year. But that's okay, because Easter isn't really about the traditions. It's not about the family gatherings or Easter egg hunts or special services. It's about the fact that **Christ the Lord is risen from the grave,** and on the basis of His death and resurrection, He promises eternal life to all who trust in Him. So whatever happens over the next few months, you can trust Him. Even if everything in this life comes crumbling down around you, you can cling to Jesus, the wonder-working Savior, Who triumphed over death and redeems all that is broken and undone.

**HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!**



**\*Don't forget to check the Daily Word from your staff, Monday-Saturday, on the Church website.**

**\*Remember the Church Office is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-11:30am & 1:00-5:00pm.**

**\*You are welcome to drop off your giving any time, if you do not want to give online or mail it in. Thank you for continuing to support the work for the Lord @ GracePoint, especially at this hard time.**

**\*You may also pick up the Ladies Bible Study Lesson-ready by Wednesday afternoon, and Pastor Jim's syllabus for Sunday morning SS, ready by Friday afternoon. These can also be printed from website.**

**\*Our Food Pantry is open every Wednesday, 2:00-5:00pm with drive-thru.**

**\*Don't forget to pray for each other. You may read an updated prayer list every week on the website-underneath the title -Bulletins @ the top of the first page of the website.**

**\*Pastor Jim is not comfortable in doing the Israel trip this year because of the current situation, so we are cancelling for 2020. We will look at a future time.**

**\*If you need us for anything, we are a phone call away.**

**We hope you have a blessed Easter. We love you and are praying for you!**