



The Wardens' Wire

EASTER 2025

He Is Risen!

Today we celebrate Christ's victory over death! We affirm in the words of the Apostles Creed: "On the third day He rose again." What does that mean? In the words of To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2013): It means that "Jesus was not simply resuscitated. God restored him

physically from death to life in his perfected and glorious body, never to die again. His tomb was

empty; Jesus had risen bodily from the dead. The risen Jesus was seen by his apostles and hundreds of other witnesses." (47) What effect did it have on them? Before the resurrection Jesus'

followers were meek, doubting, and fearful, taking refuge behind locked doors. After the resurrection they were transformed into confident believers who fearlessly wanted to share the

good news and who were prepared to die as martyrs in its cause.

The evidence for the resurrection is clear and irrefutable. It wasn't the case that the apostles were

deceived by some kind of hallucination. It wasn't that they constructed some kind of myth or made up some bogus story. It wasn't the case that the apostles were deceivers engaged in some

kind of conspiracy. It wasn't the case that Jesus didn't die, i.e. that we was in a swoon from which he woke up. No: the hard evidence of the New Testament texts is clear and irrefutable: Jesus died and Jesus rose again.

At the time and ever since, the news that Jesus had risen set people's hearts on fire and changed

lives. In comparison, the precept that we should "Love our neighbour" was not real news, then or

now. What was great news (the essence of the gospel) was that the man who claimed to be the Son of God and Saviour of the world had risen from the dead.

So we celebrate joyfully and thankfully this day. We are delivered from sin and restored to eternal life. Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave. Earth



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and heaven are joined. God and man are reconciled. God's mercy to us is exceedingly joyful and beyond our comprehension.

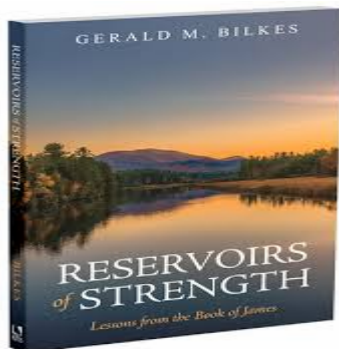
For you and me this day, here is the assurance Jesus gives us: "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:40).

Alleluia!

Tom Power

NEW THURSDAY EVENING STUDY: THE BOOK of JAMES

Starting on Thursday April 24 at 7 p.m. join Rev. Paul Luth as he leads us in a study of the Book of James. We will be using the guide by Gerald M. Bilkes, *Reservoirs of Strength: Lessons from the Book of James*.



The book of James is a critical book in the New Testament. It opens with a command to count it all joy when we face life's trials. But how can we speak of joy when difficulties bring us so much sadness? James's letter provides us with the strength we need when things get hard. Bilkes identifies eight "streams" that flow out of the book of James, as follows:

- The Truth of God
- The Lordship of Christ

- The Friendship of God
- The Wisdom of God
- The Grace of God
- The Will of God
- The Justice of God
- The Ear of God

Copies of the book are available from Paul Luth.

As well as meeting in person in my home, as an experiment we are going to offer remote/online access to this study. For details, speak with Tom Power or contact him: thomppower@gmail.com for the zoom link.

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There are many legends and folklore about the magnificent Weeping Willow.... This is a lovely one from Poland.... The Weeping willow trees saved some drowning kittens who were chasing butterflies and fell into the river. The trees reacted to the mother cat's cries for help by sweeping their limbs down into the water where the kittens clung to the ends of the branches and were saved. Each spring since then the willow branches sprout tiny fur-like buds at their tips where the kittens once clung.

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A SPRING EVENT

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD, 1 – 3 PM.

A light lunch, music, readings, and lots of friendship is awaiting you, invite a friend, relative, neighbour for a delightful afternoon. Sign up on the bulletin board so that we are prepared. Hosted by the Friendship Circle.

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A blessed Easter to all of you, my dear friends in this church. Thank you for being you. We all fit beautifully together like a huge jigsaw puzzle in the faith.
Love Judy