

WEEKLY SERMON

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He is risen, we are saved. Hallelujah!

So here we are at the very critical point of the Christian faith, the familiar account of brutal torture and death; the astonishing revelation of Resurrection and everlasting life that follows it.

I've often thought of myself in the fire-lit courtyard alongside Peter in Jerusalem in the early hours of Good Friday morning, as the authorities went through the sham of a trial and interrogation of Jesus; fully committed to erasing him from the earth (they wished)!

The fear and tension building; the accusations thrown at Peter of being a member of Christ's group; the denial and the cock crowing.

Sometimes it is hard to think ahead to better times when you are in the middle of a firestorm in life. Goodness knows, there are enough challenges that beset humanity ... and look at what we are facing now in our nation and the world, let alone in the privacy of our own lives.

Our freedom is bought at a huge price. So many are still in thrall to the powers of this world, and yes, to the influence of the Devil.

But there is light, hope and salvation in the darkness. We need to look beyond the hours of trial and execution of God's son, beyond the Cross, to the dawn of the third day.

And the sun rises, in my mind I am also there as Mary approaches the open tomb, free of Roman guards, attended only by angels. Could the risen Jesus be speaking my name as well?

It is the world's most familiar story for good reason. From the dark confines of the Jerusalem courtyard to the glorious dawn beside the opened tomb outside the city, God calls us home.

Christ, carrying all our sin and wrongdoing on his shoulders, pays the price of our redemption: He Is Risen, we are saved. Hallelujah.

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