

## The Second Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, April 12, 2026

### “Joy Takes Root ~ Peace for Fearful Hearts”

#### Philippians 4:4-9 & John 20:19-23

Mary’s experience in the garden shows us that the turning point of Easter isn’t just the empty tomb, it’s an \_\_\_\_\_ with the risen Jesus. The empty tomb is \_\_\_\_\_, but the living Christ is \_\_\_\_\_.

And that’s where joy is born—not in theory or in \_\_\_\_\_ belief, not when we just hear about Jesus or rehearse familiar traditions—but when we encounter Him—personally, truly, unmistakably.

#### HOW THE RISEN JESUS BRINGS JOY TO FEARFUL HEARTS

**Truth #1: The risen Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.**

“On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them...” (Jn 20:19)

These guys weren’t strangers to Jesus or casual \_\_\_\_\_; they were His closest \_\_\_\_\_—men who’d walked with Him for three years.

Yet now, on the very day of resurrection, they’re not standing boldly in public squares, they’re not proclaiming victory. They’re \_\_\_\_\_ hind locked doors.

Scripture doesn’t pretend that this kind of fear is \_\_\_\_\_, but rather acknowledges that it’s real, powerful, and deeply \_\_\_\_\_.

Fear isn’t \_\_\_\_\_ to faith, it’s often the very place where faith takes \_\_\_\_\_.

Sometimes we imagine that we have to \_\_\_\_\_ our fear first before we’re worthy of Christ’s presence. However, the Gospel shows us the opposite. He comes to them in the \_\_\_\_\_ of their fear.

The risen Jesus isn’t \_\_\_\_\_ from fearful people, nor does He remain safely removed from their anxiety. Instead, He steps directly into the very place where fear has taken hold and meets them where they’re at. Jesus comes first, and courage \_\_\_\_\_.

Throughout the Bible, we see God drawing near to fearful people—not after their fear is gone, but while it’s still very \_\_\_\_\_.

：“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and

do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God.” (Isaiah 41:10)

The command to not fear is anchored—not in the absence of trouble or the guarantee of ease—but in the promise of God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

This is the heart of the \_\_\_\_\_—and it doesn’t end at the cross. The risen Jesus continues to be present with His people through the \_\_\_\_\_.

Fear doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ us from encountering Christ. Nor is faith the absence of fear. Faith is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus in the midst of fear.

When Christ comes near, fear begins to \_\_\_\_\_ its grip. Not instantly, not magically, but steadily. Because fear thrives in \_\_\_\_\_, but peace grows in presence.

**Truth #2: The risen Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.” (Verses 19-20)

Jesus doesn’t begin with \_\_\_\_\_...Instead, the very first words spoken by the risen Lord to His frightened disciples are simple and gentle: “Peace be with you.”

**Peace = *shalom* =**

He isn’t merely wishing them \_\_\_\_\_ feelings. He’s declaring a reality made possible through His death and resurrection. Peace has been won. Sin has been paid for. Death has been \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ between God and humanity has been removed.

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)

Notice peace isn’t something we \_\_\_\_\_. It’s something Christ establishes, not through positive thinking or emotional fortitude, but through His \_\_\_\_\_ work on the cross.

This becomes the \_\_\_\_\_ of lasting joy because fear thrives where \_\_\_\_\_ rules, but peace flourishes where reconciliation is secure.

“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

He wants them to understand that their peace isn't \_\_\_\_\_, nor is it based on their emotions or circumstances, but is secured by His \_\_\_\_\_.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” (John 14:27)

Worldly peace depends on \_\_\_\_\_. Christ's peace depends on His presence. Worldly peace disappears when trouble comes. Christ's peace \_\_\_\_\_ even in hardship.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

Peace becomes a \_\_\_\_\_, standing guard over anxious thoughts—not removing every difficulty, but protecting the heart from being overwhelmed by them. It's not a peace that removes storms, but peace that holds \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of them.

This peace isn't rooted in our ability to \_\_\_\_\_ life, but in Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ over sin and death.

“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things...making peace by the blood of his cross.” (Col 1:19–20)

Our peace was purchased at great \_\_\_\_\_, through the blood of Christ. And because of that, we don't face life alone. When fear rises, peace is available. When anxiety presses in, peace can \_\_\_\_\_ our heart. When uncertainty looms, peace steadies our soul. And as peace settles into our heart, \_\_\_\_\_ begins to grow.

**Truth #3: The risen Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.**  
“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” (John 20:21-23)

Before He sends His disciples into the world, He \_\_\_\_\_ them once again in peace. He doesn't send frightened people into mission. He sends people whose hearts are being \_\_\_\_\_ by His presence. Peace comes first. Then \_\_\_\_\_ follows.

Jesus doesn't calm fear just so we can feel better. He calms fear so we can live \_\_\_\_\_.

The Father sent Jesus into a \_\_\_\_\_ world—into suffering, sacrifice, and a love that costs something—to reveal God's \_\_\_\_\_, to proclaim truth, to bring healing and forgiveness, and ultimately to lay down His \_\_\_\_\_.

Not after they feel \_\_\_\_\_ enough, not after they fully understand everything, but now—while they're still learning, still growing, still \_\_\_\_\_. That's the surprising nature of the Gospel. God doesn't wait until people are \_\_\_\_\_ before sending them. He sends forgiven people, restored people, people who know firsthand what it means to receive \_\_\_\_\_.

“Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” (Genesis 2:7)

The risen Jesus breathes on His disciples—as a \_\_\_\_\_ of Pentecost—and a new \_\_\_\_\_ begins. This is resurrection life moving outward. Not merely life restored, but life \_\_\_\_\_.

The resurrection isn't just an event in history, it's a living reality \_\_\_\_\_ the Church. The disciples who once hid behind locked doors will soon stand in public streets. The men who trembled in fear will preach with boldness. The ones who doubted will proclaim with \_\_\_\_\_. Not because they suddenly became fearless, but because they were given the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Every believer who encounters the risen Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ into the world in some way. Not necessarily across oceans, not necessarily into dramatic ministry roles, but into \_\_\_\_\_ places.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20)

However, peace loosens fear's grip. And purpose gives \_\_\_\_\_ to our lives. When we know Christ is alive, when we trust His peace, when we receive His Spirit, we begin to live \_\_\_\_\_.



When we encounter Him, by His Holy Spirit, in Word and Sacrament, everything begins to \_\_\_\_\_. Fear gives way to peace. Peace gives way to purpose. And purpose gives way to joy. Not shallow happiness, not temporary excitement, but deep, steady, \_\_\_\_\_ joy—the kind that holds firm even when life feels \_\_\_\_\_.