**Remember and Seek**

 *But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.****2****And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,****3****but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.****4****While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.****5****And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?****6****He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,****7****that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”****8****And they remembered his words,****9****and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.****10****Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,****11****but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.****12****But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened. (Luke 24:1-12, ESV)*

 Jesus is alive and we must remember His words and follow Him every day. Christ is Risen from the dead! Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ! It is truly a blessing when we can rejoice in this way, without the doubts that those apostles had then, when the event had just taken place. Today we’re going to talk about Jesus’ resurrection as an impelling and faith-strengthening cause for us. Jesus’ resurrection is a foundation of our faith and an always-empowering reality for our lives and lifestyles. My prayer is that we will be able to better remember the ramifications of Christ’s resurrection on a day-to-day basis, so that we can seek Him as we traverse our individual faith-journeys. Again, Jesus is alive, and we must remember His words and follow Him every day. Let’s talk about remembering and seeking…

 Today’s celebration of Jesus’ resurrection is an invitation to us to remember that He is alive and that we are to seek Him based on that foundational truth and find Him in our everyday lives. The Bible, and especially the New Testament is so precise in its descriptions, so honest in its presentations, that it puts us in a similar state of amazement as Peter the Apostle was after He left the empty tomb, wondering what had just happened and what He had just seen. Clearly, the women who had gone before him had needed an angelic encounter and a message about Jesus from those angels to believe in Christ and His resurrection (the Apostles, even worse, needed to hear from two of their brothers about their experience with Jesus on the road to Emmaus as well as to have a personal physical visitation by the Lord in order to believe). In the first case, the angels said two extremely important things to the women: “*Why do you seek the living among the dead*,” and “*Remember how he told you while he was still in Galilee that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.*” The angels said the first statement because the women had come with their incense and spices to honor Jesus’ body – they had not expected Jesus’ words to come true. But they believed because they saw the angels and remembered the Lord’s words. They saw, they remembered, and then they went to tell others.

 Thinking about the joy and wonder of the event, for example, when a family member is lost and you are not able to find them, it is a very different feeling when you think that they are dead, and you suddenly get news that “no”, they are still alive in some distant city. Or imagine for a moment how great was the joy when families who had escaped our genocide, who had been split up, suddenly became aware that their sister, brother, father, mother or relative had escaped and was still living. In those days, family members sought the survivors and found them.

 But today, Jesus wants us to remember His words and seek Him. However, our search, our seeking is different. We need to remember every day that our Lord Jesus is not dead. The Lord lives, and He wants to build a relationship with us. The Lord is a Risen Lord. He was obedient to God the Father, but He had reminded His followers that He would die and rise six times in the Gospel of Luke before He did(!). We too must not forget that our faith is very different than those of other religions. We believe in a living God and His living Savior. We do not believe in a once-living but now dead hero.

 Our Savior lives, and because he lives, you also, if you believe, will live with Him, not just after you die, but even now, today. Our living Savior invites us to seek Him and to remember His words. This means having a prayer life, having a strong family relationship with the church, and having the Bible as our life-giving daily food.

 Therefore, my dear brother and sister, if you know someone today that has not understood that Jesus is a living Savior and that He wants to have a relationship with them, why don’t you remind them Jesus’ words and what happened to Him? Remind them that Jesus is alive and that it is possible to seek Him and find Him, and even together with you, if they cannot or do not know how to pray by themselves or understand the Bible. Please do not let the lost remain lost. Let them find Jesus (you help them) because you have sought and found Him, and because you have learned His words and have always remembered them.

Today’s celebration of Jesus’ resurrection is an invitation to us to remember that He is alive and that we are to seek Him based on that foundational truth and find Him in our everyday lives. Jesus is alive and we must remember His words and follow Him every day.

Christ is Risen from the dead, blessed is the Resurrection of Christ! Amen.