

HomeTouch

is a weekly ministry of
Orange Coast Church



Pastor Ken Studer

Sunday, April 8, 2007

Scripture Reading: John 20:1-18

TODAY'S THOUGHT: Do not abandon yourselves to despair . . . We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song. —John Paul II

In the ancient world, Christians in Rome at times had to meet secretly, and one favorite meeting place was the catacombs. The catacombs were underground chambers where the dead were laid to rest. But Christians often left signs of their presence there by decorating these rooms with what scholars now call paleo-Christian art. In the catacombs you can find frescoes, sculptures and inscriptions.

One of the most frequent images in the catacombs is a scene depicting Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. It is evidence that early Christians believed in the resurrection of the body. In a place of death, images of resurrection abound.

Today, Christians no longer need to worship in catacombs or meet secretly for fear of imperial or federal persecution. We are allowed to worship freely and openly without fear of government reprisals. So we are different from early Christians in that respect. We — here in America at least — don't fear for our lives simply because we're Christians.

But we are united with early Christians in our belief in the resurrection. And on Easter Sunday, this is what we celebrate! The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the "first-fruits" of our own resurrection!

This may be hard to understand. Even the apostle Paul calls it a mystery! But our faith teaches us that the resurrection is more than simply being assured eternal life; it is rather about in what mode that eternal life will be experienced.

If that's a bit much to digest, think of it this way: *Because He lives, I, too, shall live!*

Prayer: God of glory, God of might, thank you for raising up Jesus Christ so that his death was not in vain and so that we might experience His presence today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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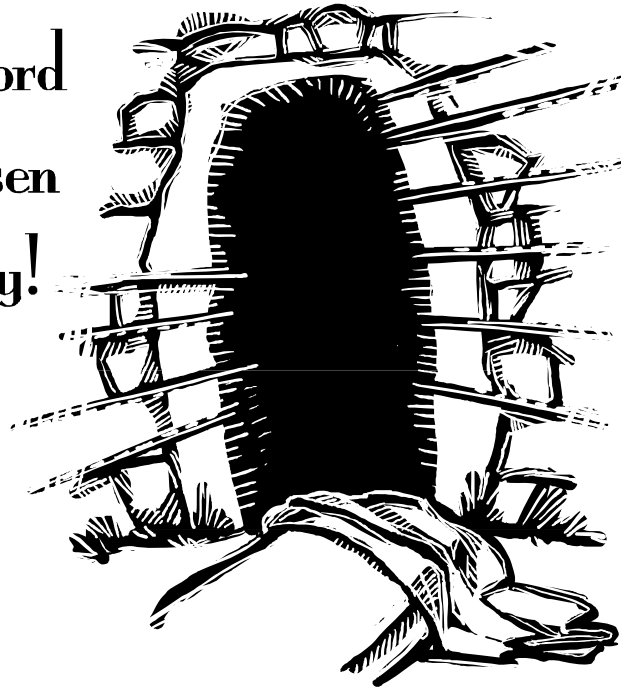
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Activity Page for the week of April 8, 2007

Daily Bible Readings

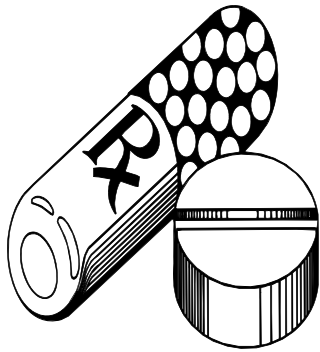
- Sunday:** Luke 1-3
- Monday:** Deuteronomy 23-25
- Tuesday:** Deuteronomy 26-28
- Wednesday:** Deuteronomy 29-31
- Thursday:** Deuteronomy 32-34
- Friday:** Joshua 1-3
- Saturday:** Psalms 33-34

Christ
the Lord
Is Risen
Today!



A Taste of Your Own Medicine

You are to take a pill every half hour. You have three pills to take. How long will the pills last?



Answer:
One hour.
Take the first at 4 p.m., the second at 4:30 p.m., and the third at 5 p.m.

Scramble Fun!

Unscramble the following words and then use the letters in the circles to reveal the hidden word.

ROSSC

MTOB

GANLE

TNEOS

Hidden word:

Answers: cross, tomb, angel, stone.
Hidden word: Easter.

Your Guess Is As Good As Mine (as long as it's the right answer!)

1. America's first automobile parking meter was installed in Oklahoma City in a) 1835, b) 1935, c) 1899, d) 1765.
2. The first postage stamp was issued in Paris in a) 1653, b) 1753, c) 1853, d) 1904.
3. The first American policewoman began work in a) 1910, b) 1760, c) 1955, d) 1980.

Answers: 1. b, 2. a, 3. a