

Aveleigh's Year of The Bible
April 15 2018, The Third Sunday of Eastertide
Sermon: MATTHEW, RESURRECTED TO FOLLOW
Texts Res. Ps. 103:1-13 p. 647 & Mat. 9:9-13
PS :103: 13, As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

Leader: At the break of dawn, a bird sings.

People: The long night of darkness is over.

Leader: The stone is rolled away.

People: The tomb is empty.

Leader: The sun begins to shine.

People: The Son has risen!

Leader: It's a morning of glory,

People: Of love overcoming death,

Leader: Of women spreading Good News,

People: Of men turning from despair.

Leader: It's a morning of joy,

People: For Easter has come again.

Leader: Love is stronger than death,

All: And we lift our voices in resurrection song.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful and risen Savior, we claim to be people of the resurrection, yet we confess that far too often we do not experience resurrection power. Our prayers are anemic and our faith is shallow. We compartmentalize our lives, placing you on the sidelines of our work, family life and play. We take too much for granted and fail to thank you for the blessings of health, relationships and freedoms. We fail to be good stewards of your creation, and we become discouraged by problems, limitations and failures. Gracious God, forgive our shortsightedness and our lack of trust. Help us to see that you are at work in our lives and in the world. Inspire us to hold fast to you in faith, knowing that you are working all things for good and that because of the empty tomb, we have nothing to fear. Amen.

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I. JESUS SEES WE AS I AM

“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. ‘Follow me,’ he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.”
Matthew 9:9 (NIV)

II. JESUS LOVES ME AS I AM

“While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and ‘sinners’ came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?’”
Matthew 9:10-11 (NIV)

III. JESUS CALLS ME AS I AM

“On hearing this, Jesus said, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.’” Matthew 9:12-13 (NIV)

IV. JESUS WILL NOT LEAVE ME AS I AM

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.” Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I thank you today for your mercy. And I thank you for your grace. I thank you for Matthew’s story and what it shows me about how you see me too. I thank you that you see me and know me and understand me. You get me just as I am. Thank you. And I thank you that you love me just as I am. I thank you that you call me just as I am. And Lord, I thank you that you won’t leave me just as I am. You have a whole new life planned for me. Teach me how to live mercifully. Lord Jesus. Amen.

FOUR FOR THE ROAD:

1. Have you ever seen someone act mercifully?
2. How does it feel to be merciful? Or receive mercy?
3. Who has extended mercy to you?
4. To whom might you extend mercy?