

**Acts 4: 32-35**

**Psalm 133**

**1 John 1: 1-2:2**

**John 20: 19-31**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**April 19, 2009**

**In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen**

It is good to be where we are, and I don't mean the space that we are sitting in; I mean the frame of mind that many people are in this world today, and I hope you came to church to hear more about the Resurrection than the economy because this sermon has nothing to do with the economy. It is good to have doubt in our minds just as Thomas did, because that is a starting place for honesty. If we say we just accept something because we heard about it, is not good because we took no effort in finding out more about it. If all you did was come to church on Easter Sunday and are not here today to find out more about the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of everlasting life; you only accepted the premise in blind faith and you really do not believe it to be true. You left it as a premise. As found in the prayer book, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Just imagine taking for granite that two times two is four, never taking the time to have two blocks and then

getting two more blocks and seeing for yourself that there are now four blocks, since two blocks times two blocks gives you four blocks.

These last few sentences about the blocks are easy to prove and you have done that many times. But, the Easter Sunday message and the sentences that I began this sermon with are not possible to prove. Now that may upset a few of you, that here is the person that should know for sure that the resurrection of Jesus Christ took place, and he is saying that it cannot be proved. You are right. I cannot prove it for you or for myself; but that does not keep me from knowing that it did occur.

It is by faith that we are aware that Jesus rose from the grave and died for us to have everlasting life. Hebrews chapter eleven verse one says, “faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

There are several ways that we can help clear up doubt and become better believers, but if we are honest with ourselves, there is always the possibility of doubt in our mind. Now having this ability to have doubt does not diminish the faith that we have in what took place two thousand years ago, but it allows us to always continue to increase our faith by what we see and learn.

One way that helps us to know what took place that many years ago is by the statement made by a person that the web will not give to me. Try it

sometime, place a religious quote into goggle and read what comes up. You may learn more than you wanted to know. I don't think I have seen so many takes on such a simple statement.

The quote is something like this; "If Christianity, the resurrection of Jesus Christ was not true, there have been billions of people mislead into believing in something not true." This would have been the biggest scheme of all times and we would have to go back over all the years past and try to find out how so many miraculous things have taken place that were credited to Jesus being the Son of God.

Another way to help us to better understand the resurrection is to be around persons that have a love of Christ in their hearts more than you have ever seen. You have seen it for yourself, the face of a person that so loves the Lord and as they enter a room there is just a calming, religious feeling that is present wherever they are. We have seen it so many times in our guests with room in the inn where we house homeless people during the winter months to keep them warm and fed. The time a person placed the only money they had, a quarter, into the offering plate because they wanted to be a part of contributing to our ministry here at Holy Comforter. The time a person wanted to come back to spend the night here again so they could thank the

person that made it possible for them to get glasses and a hearing aid, so they could be part of the Bible study here at room in the inn.

We see it in the faces of the people we feed at the homeless shelters when they say thank you for a meal before they eat it, and especially do we see the face of Jesus when that same person comes up after the meal and says, "That was great, please come back and cook again".

All of these things are ways that we are reassured that Jesus walked on this earth, healed people on this earth, died and rose from the grave to forgive us our sins on this earth because we experience it ever day.

So as we had the wonderful experience at the Easter Vigil to come into a dark church with only the Pascal candle leading the way, we saw the light of Christ, you to can see the light of Christ this week in those around you.

Make a special effort this week in all you do to see the face of Jesus in those around you and experience without a doubt that you are released from your sins because of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen