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| Is 25:6-9 Matt 27:62 – 28:10  | Easter Sunday - Celebration | Pinelands – 9am – 31/03/2024Thornton – 10:30am – 31/03/2024 |

People love to **CELEBRATE…** Birthdays

 Anniversaries

 Special Events

 Weddings

We ***MARK*** those events with some sort of **CELEBRATION…**

 A Party, A Dance, A Holiday

**AND…**  We **Invite People** to be part of those events

**Did you Note the theme of Celebration in our readings…**

**Isaiah** - God prepares a banquet…

 What is that… It is a party – celebration

 There is JOY , FESTIVITIES…

 GOOD food and wine…

 Everything you could want in a party…

**BUT MORE…**

Note the promise…

 Remove the cloud of sorrow…

 Destroy death for ever…

 Wipe away tears… No more pain, grief

Wipe away disgrace… No more shame

 *(remember the New Jerusalem in Revelation)*

**See the *RESPONSE* of the people…**

Verse 9… **Everyone will say…**

 ***“He is our God! We have put our trust in him,***

***and he has rescued us.***

 ***He is the Lord! We have put our trust in him, and now***

 ***we are happy and joyful because he has saved us.”***

**Also note who is invited to the banquet…**

 **WHO?** All the nations…

Everyone…

You and me.

***IT IS PARTY TIME.***

When there is a **CELEBRATION** it is difficult to keep it quiet.

 When a party is on the go… everybody knows about it

 The news spreads…

 Loud music, good vibe, singing, shouting, etc

In our Gospel reading… note what happens…

The **kill-joys** are going to try to stop the celebration…

 Guard the tomb to prevent anything happening…

**BUT…** Nothing is going to stop this **CELEBRATION…**

The two Marys make their way to the tomb…

 Supposedly to view the tomb or to further embalm the body

**BUT** a huge Earth Tremor *(earthquake)…*

 Opens the sealed tomb… rendering the guards unconscious

**Leaving an Angel…** with dazzling light in white…

facing the women…

 Reassuring them and Explaining that Jesus is risen.

 ***Verses 5ff…***

 ***“The angel spoke to the women. ‘You must not be afraid,***

 ***I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.***

 ***He is not here; He has been raised, just as he said.***

 ***Come here and see the place where he was lying.***

 ***Go Quickly now, and tell his disciples,***

 ***‘He has been raised from death.”***

**This is exciting NEWS… Jesus is not dead !!!**

On their way back to the disciples… **they meet Jesus…**

***Jesus says to them…***

 ***“Do not be afraid, Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee,***

 ***and there they will see me.”***

**The *NEWS* is out…**

**Go and Tell… AND Go quickly**

***The scripture says…***

 ***“Afraid yet FILLED with joy…***

***they ran to tell the disciples.”***

**Spread the news…**

 “Death has been destroyed… for ever”

 “JESUS has been raised back to life”

 Scripture has been fulfilled…

 “No more fear of death, No more death from sin.

 Satan has been defeated… JESUS is victor…

 **“KING of KINGS + LORD of LORDS !!”**

**“The Lord is Risen…**

**He is risen indeed… Hallelujah”**

What did scripture say…

**Go and Tell… AND Go quickly**

**The greatest celebration of Easter is for us to tell others…**

 About what Jesus is doing in our lives…

 How He is… - encouraging us

 - sustaining us

 - leading and guiding us

***Anybody want to share a testimony?***

**We celebrate…**

 IN WORSHIP - Church, communion

(telling others of what Christ has done)

 IN WITNESSING – Testimonies…

 (telling others what Christ is doing.)

***For he is ALIVE, ALIVE forever more.***

 ***Let us celebrate… as we SING…***

*Sound His praises! Tell the story*

*Of Him who was slain!*

*Sound His praises! Tell with gladness*

*He liveth again!*

*Sound His praises! Tell the story*

**Isaiah 25:6-9 God Prepares a Banquet**

Here on Mount Zion the Lord Almighty will prepare a banquet for all the nations of the world—a banquet of the richest food and the finest wine. Here he will suddenly remove the cloud of sorrow that has been hanging over all the nations. The Sovereign Lord will destroy death forever! He will wipe away the tears from everyone's eyes and take away the disgrace his people have suffered throughout the world. The Lord himself has spoken.

When it happens, everyone will say, “He is our God! We have put our trust in him, and he has rescued us. He is the Lord! We have put our trust in him, and now we are happy and joyful because he has saved us.”

**Matthew 27:62-28:10 The Guard at the Tomb**

The next day, which was a Sabbath, the chief priests and the Pharisees met with Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember that while that liar was still alive he said, ‘I will be raised to life three days later.’ Give orders, then, for his tomb to be carefully guarded until the third day, so that his disciples will not be able to go and steal the body, and then tell the people that he was raised from death. This last lie would be even worse than the first one.”

“Take a guard,” Pilate told them; “go and make the tomb as secure as you can.”

So they left and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and leaving the guard on watch.

**Matthew 28:1-10 The Resurrection**

After the Sabbath, as Sunday morning was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake; an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid that they trembled and became like dead men.

The angel spoke to the women. “You must not be afraid,” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has been raised, just as he said. Come here and see the place where he was lying.

Go quickly now, and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from death, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him!’ Remember what I have told you.”

So they left the tomb in a hurry, afraid and yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Peace be with you.” They came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. “Do not be afraid,” Jesus said to them. “Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”