

“Creed: What Christians Believe and Why: The Resurrection of the Body”

1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 50-57

Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018

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Belief is a choice.

A large crowd spread their coats on the road, cut branches from trees and shouted, “hosanna to the Son of David.” They believed that this was the Messiah the Anointed One.

They made a choice to believe that this one entering in to Jerusalem was Jesus. Hosanna in the Highest. They believe this one is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

The last several weeks we have studied the Apostle’s Creed. It is about belief---what Christians believe and why.

Today we finish the Creed series with the last phrase that says, “I believe in the Resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” The “why” of that belief statement stems from the journey that happened on Holy Week that begins today on Palm Sunday.

Hosanna is a shout of praise and yet it is more than that. It is from the **Hebrew words: YASHA which means “delivers, saves” and ANNA which means “beg.” Yasha Anna. “I beg you to save!” or “Please deliver us!”**

By shouting Hosanna, they were crying out for salvation and that is exactly what happens this Holy Week. Please take you bulletin insert out to see our Holy Week Schedule. Today you have received a palm branch as we remember Jesus entry into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Worship service with Communion. I’ll be preaching a message entitled, “A NEW Commandment?” On Good Friday several events of worship going on. On back of bulletin notice the 12-3 come and go worship experience that Curlew United Methodist Church is having. Our own Rev. Cathy is speaking. This will be a wonderful time of worship and reflection. We also will have a Cross walk at noon. This is for men and women and children and youth of all ages. We will literally carry a cross down the sidewalk on Belcher to remind people of the meaning of Good Friday. At 7 p.m. Good Friday Evening a worship experience at Pop Stansel Park. Bring a chair. Be with us when se see the sunset on this Holy day. Saturday begins with children’s Easter Story and Egg Hunt. We then arrive at Easter Sunday. Our 8:15 and 9:30 services will be identical in music and message and our 11:05 that is church feel with a modern presentation. Allow me to suggest a way you can have a part in evangelism and sharing the Good News of Easter. We will be honored to have many guests with us. Most will very possible try to come to the 9:30 service. I would put out the request to come to the 8:05 or 11:05 and sacrifice your normal seat so a guest may hear the message of Easter. An exciting week.

On Good Friday we will focus on the Cross. As the children sang this morning, I belong to the one who saved me. Because of what Jesus did on the cross---riches all mine. I belong to the One whose love is more than enough. Come this week and experience that love. On Friday you will see the cross and nails where forgiveness took place. I believe in the forgiveness of sins. Speaking of that...how about the message last week by Joel Figueroa our High School Youth Director????

But before Good Friday there was the shouting of Hosannas on Palm Sunday. I beg you to save! Deliver us! And Jesus did just that by saving us from our sins. But He actually saved us from much more than that.

It may be a bit odd to link Palm Sunday with “I believe in the Resurrection of the Body and Life Everlasting” ---however---if, if, Jesus had not entered Jerusalem, prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, faced the cross, suffered and died---He would not have been resurrected. Because of His resurrection we too have the assurance and promise of the resurrection of our body.

After Jesus resurrection people saw Him, they touched Him, they ate with Him. I believe in Resurrection of the Body. **John 14:19 New International Version (NIV) Because I live, you also will live.**

The Apostle Paul helps explain it. **1 Corinthians 15: 43 Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. 44 They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.**

Resurrection of the body...a new spiritual glorious body that isn't subject to disease and aches and pains.

Hosanna. Save us! Deliver us! Our broken bodies raised in glory! Our weak bodies raised in strength! Jesus through His resurrection saved us from eternal death. By belief in Him, a resurrected body. He delivered us and our transformed bodies so that we will never die.

And yet just as Jesus entered Jerusalem facing death we too, all of us face death. But again, we say, “I believe in the Resurrection of the Body and the life everlasting.

The great physicist Stephen Hawking died on March 14th. Hawking lived for decades with the prospect of death hanging over his head, but unlike the rest of us, he never worried about what's next. Hawking, who died at 76, spoke candidly in a [2011 Guardian interview](#) about what he believes happens when people die. He told the *Guardian* that while he "wasn't afraid of death," he was in no hurry to die. "I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail," he said. "There is no heaven or afterlife for broken down computers; that is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark." (March 14th, USA Today)

Oh, but I believe. I believe in the Resurrection of the Body and the life everlasting. I BELIEVE!

However even with that belief there is to some extent a fear of the unknown. Perhaps the following story will help.

There was an old country doctor who would take his dog along with him when visiting patients. The dog would remain outside while the doctor went in for the house call.

On one occasion, the physician went to the home of a man with a terminal disease who didn't seem to have much time to live. The man confessed to the doctor his fears about death and said, "What's it like when you die?"

The doctor thought for a moment, then got up and opened the front door. His loyal canine friend, who had been waiting patiently on the porch, gleefully bounded in to join his master. The doctor turned to the dying man and said, "Do you see this dog? He didn't have any idea what was on this side of that door. All he knew was that his master was there, and he wanted to be with him."

"That's how I feel about death," the physician continued. "I don't really know all the whats and hows about dying. I'm not totally sure what's on the other side of that door. But I know who is there, and that's enough for me. I'm looking forward to being with my Master."

YES! Life everlasting with my Master!

Hosanna! Save us from death. And He did and gave us victory.
Hosanna! Save us from the sting of Death! And He did....

A little boy and his father were driving down a country road on a beautiful spring afternoon. Suddenly out of nowhere a bumblebee flew in the car window. Since the little boy was deathly allergic to bee stings he became petrified. His father quickly reached out, grabbed the bee, squeezed it in his hand, and then released it. But as soon as he let it go, the young son became frantic once again as it buzzed by the little boy.

The father sensed his son's terror. Once again he reached out his hand, but this time he pointed to this hand. There, stuck in his skin was the stinger of the bee. "You see this?" he asked. "You don't need to be afraid anymore. I've taken the sting for you."

Are you with me? Yes, He saved us. He took the sting.

1 Corinthians 15: 57 ⁵⁷ But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And yes, I'm getting pumped to share more next week. Since I'm talking about I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body and Life Everlasting this week, I thought next week even though it is Easter I would preach on "Sin, Degradation, Carnality, Corruption and You!" Ha, April Fools!!! Oh, yes, it is April Fools next week on Easter...won't happen again until the year 2040.

Within the Apostles' Creed are belief statements, choices that are the very rock and foundation of what Christians believe.

Listen to this testimony by Lynn Stevens our Assistant Student Ministries Director. **(video)**

I believe.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! Save us! Deliver us! And He did!

Please stand as you are able and join in this historic confession, I hope it is truly your confession of faith.

(Apostle's Creed on screen)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.