

John 3:16 (KJV):

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

God sent His Son. They called Him Jesus. He came to love. He came to heal. He came to forgive.

But the world...

The world gave Him a cross.

The world gave Him a crown of thorns.

The world gave Him a rejection's cold shoulder.

That Friday was loud. The hammer against the nail. The jeers of the crowd. The sky turning black as sackcloth. Then, IT IS FINISHED echoed out. NEXT, Saturday? Saturday was the waiting room of destiny...silent. Silence, as heavy as a stone! A stone to say: "It is over." A stone to say: "Death has won." A stone to say: "Hope is trapped inside." The silence of a hope that seemed lost. The silence of a question hanging in the air: *Is this the end?* The silence of a seed buried in the earth. But we know that seeds are the end, they are the BEGINNING!

And I'm here to tell you this morning... **Sunday was coming.**

(Luke 24:1) **"On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb."**

They brought spices for a corpse. They brought tears for a tragedy. They asked the question that rings through the ages: *Who will roll away the stone? Who will let us in to say goodbye?*

But when they arrived, the stone wasn't just moved. It was dismissed! It was cast aside like a pebble! And the angel sat upon it, defying the gravity of the grave. The grave clothes were there. Lying in the shape of a body, but the body was gone. He had passed right through them. He didn't need to unwrap them; He just stepped out of them! He left the linen as evidence. He left the napkin folded as a promise. Listen to the announcement that shook the earth:

(Matt. 28:6) **"Do not be afraid," the angel said. "He is not here, for He has risen."**

(Luke 24:5-6) **"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."**

The angel said, **"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen!"**

Because He is risen... everything changes. Because the tomb is empty, our hope is full. Because the stone is rolled away, the path is clear. He is not a memory. He is not a monument. He is not a myth. He is the Master of molecules! He is the Captain of creation! He is the Lord of life!

We sing the song, but do we know the truth?

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Not because I am strong. Not because I am clever. Not because I have a plan. But because He lives! Because He got up, death has been put down! Because He walked out, we can come in!

And because of that empty tomb, the song in our chest changes key. We don't sing a dirge; we sing an anthem! **"God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus."** He came to love, heal, and forgive. But the grave couldn't hold Him!

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!" I don't face tomorrow with a question mark; I face it with an exclamation point!

"Because He lives, all fear is gone!" Fear of judgment? Gone. Fear of abandonment? Gone. Fear of the unknown? Gone. Why?

"Because I know He holds the future." And life is worth the living just because He lives! You see, this isn't just a story. This is the pivot point of the universe.

Paul told the **1 Corinthians in 15:3,3...** **"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day."**

If He stayed in that grave, we are pitiable. If He stayed in that grave, our preaching is empty. But hear the roar of the Resurrection:

(1 Cor 15:20) **"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."**

We sing another song: *"I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today."* *"He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!"* *"He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way."* *"You ask me how I know He lives. You ask me for my proof?"*

I don't point to a philosophy. I don't point to a theory. **"You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart!"** **"I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today!"** I know that He is living, whatever men may say! **"He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!"** He walks with me. He talks with me. He is not a distant deity; He is a present help!

He is the Resurrection and the Life. He is the Firstfruits of them that sleep. He is the Firstborn from the dead. He is the Author of Life and the Finisher of Faith. He is the King of Kings.

He is the Resurrection and the Life! Jesus said: (John 11:25) **"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."**

He is the High Priest who never clocks out!

(Heb 7:25) **"Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."**

He is praying for you right now. He is pleading your case right now.

He is the Judge of the ages!

(Acts 17:31) God **"has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead."**

He is the Alpha and the Omega! Hear Him speak from Revelation 1:18: **"Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."**

He has the keys! He unlocked the gates! He liberated the captives! He bridged the gap! He paid the debt! He silenced the accuser! He conquered the grave!

That's the True King! He's the death of Death! He's the sorrow of Sorrow! He's the end of the End! He is Risen!

Listen carefully! The Pharisees couldn't explain Him. The Sadducees couldn't silence Him. Pilate couldn't wash his hands of Him. Herod couldn't kill Him. The whip couldn't break Him. The cross couldn't defeat Him. And the grave... the grave could not hold Him!

Hear the witness of Scripture:

(1 Cor. 15:3–4) **“For I delivered to you as of first importance... that Christ died for our sins... that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day.”**

(1 Cor. 15:20) **“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”**

(1 Cor. 15:17) **“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”**

But He is risen—so faith is fruitful, forgiveness is real, and graves lose their grip.

Listen to Jesus at a graveside: (John 11:25–26) **“I Am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die.”** He said it. Then He proved it.

Now—lift your eyes higher: (Heb. 7:25) **“He always lives to make intercession for them.”** Our Great High Priest is not retired—He's reigning. Not silent—He's praying. Not distant—He's near. He lives to carry your name into the Father's presence—today, tomorrow, forever.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Not because I'm clever. Not because I'm strong. But because He lives.

Because He lives, all fear is gone. What are you afraid of today? Are you afraid of failure? (Rom. 8:1) **“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”** Paul said it best: **1 Cor. 15:55... "O Death, where is your sting? O Grave, where is your victory?"** Jesus Christ abolished death! He obliterated it! He wiped it out! He brought life and immortality to light!

What About Shame? Listen to the Apostle Peter in (1 Pet. 1:3) **“Blessed be... God... who has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”**

He is the God of the second chance. Are you afraid of the past? He buried it in the sea of forgetfulness. Are you afraid of death? Let me tell you about my King! He went into the belly of the earth. He snatched the keys of death, hell, and the grave. He turned the tomb into a tunnel. He turned the end into a beginning. He turned "Goodbye" into "I'll see you in the morning."

He lived and died to buy my pardon. An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives! Our King Reigns!

Let talk a little more about King Jesus:

(Rev. 1:18) “The Living One, alive forevermore, and Who holds the keys of Death and Hades.”

Governors couldn't govern Him. Pilate couldn't wash Him away. Death couldn't hold Him. The grave couldn't keep Him. That's our Risen King.

He is enduringly strong. Entirely sincere. Eternally steadfast. Imperially powerful. Impartially merciful. And “He lives! He lives!”—that's why life is worth the living, just because He lives.

He's the King of the Jews, but He's the Savior of the World. He's the Lamb that was slain, but He's the Lion of Judah. He was buried in a borrowed tomb because He only needed it for the weekend!

That's Our Risen King! He holds the future. He holds your children. He holds your health. He holds your eternity. And life is worth the living, just because He lives!

He walked out so you could walk in. He rose up so you wouldn't stay down. He conquered the grave so you wouldn't fear the valley.

Do you know Him? He's the miracle of the age. He's the superlative of everything good. He supplies strength for the weak. He's available for the tempted and the tried. He sympathizes and He saves.

He is the death of death. He is the life of life. He is the hope of glory. He is the risen Lord!

Listen carefully my Brothers and Sisters....this resurrection is not rumor; it's God's public notice: (Acts 17:31) ***“He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance... by raising Him from the dead.”***

The empty tomb is heaven's verdict: Jesus is Lord. Repent and believe the gospel.

He lived and died to buy my pardon. An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives. He turned the tomb into a tunnel, The ending into a beginning, Goodbye into “I'll see you in the morning.”

“Because He lives,” He walks with me into hospital rooms, He talks with me in unemployment lines, He holds me in the shadows of grief, And He lifts me on the day of joy. He lives—so my future is not a threat; it's a promise.

And then one day... One day I'll cross that river. I'll fight life's final war with pain. And then, as death gives way to victory... I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns.

But the question this Easter morning isn't just “Did He rise?”

History proves He rose. The witnesses prove He rose. The church proves He rose.

The question is... **Is He risen in you?**

CeCe Winans sings, “It's too late to tell me God's not real—He's already made a way.”

It's too late to tell me the tomb still holds Him—because I've seen the stone rolled away in my own life.

It's too late to say hope is gone—because hope Himself walked out of the grave.

“Do you believe this?” (John 11:26)

“You ask me how I know He lives?”

Not only because the Scriptures say so.

Not only because five hundred saw Him at once. (1 Cor. 15:6)

But because He lives within my heart—and He can live within yours.

So, the question this morning is not "Is the tomb empty?" The tomb is empty. That work is done. The question is: Is your heart open?

If you are here today and you are trying to carry the weight of your sin... If you are trying to roll away the stone of your own guilt... Stop. You can't do it. But He already did.

The Bible is clear. The path is simple. The cost was His, the gift is yours. (Rom 10:9)

"Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Not "you might be saved." Not "you could be saved if you work hard enough." **You. Will. Be. Saved.**

If you are tired of the darkness... come to the Light. If you are tired of the stone blocking your heart... let Him roll it away. He is here. He is alive. And He is calling you.

Come to the One who holds the keys. Come to the Priest who always lives to intercede. Come to the Judge who justifies the ungodly by His blood and by His life. Come—because He lives, you can live too. “Do you know Him?” Today—turn, trust, and take Him at His word. He lives. He lives. Christ Jesus lives today. Amen.

He died for you. He rose for you. He lives for you. Don't leave this place relying on a dead religion. Meet the Living Savior. Come to the One who holds tomorrow. Come to the One who conquered the grave. Come to Jesus.

Because He lives... you can live too.

Because He lives, hope walks out of every grave.

Because He lives, your tomorrow is already in His hands.

Because He lives, every ending is just a new beginning.

Because He lives, you never face the darkness alone.

I know, just ask me me...I serve a Risen Savior Who is in the world today, and I know He lives.

BECAUSE HE LIVES WITHIN MY HEART.

Make sure He Lives in your heart today. Amen.

References:

1. S.M. Lockridge ("That's My King" and "It's Friday, but Sunday's Comin'")

- Lockridge's best-known message is the six-and-a-half-minute description of Jesus Christ, known as "That's my King!" (Source: ['That's My King' by SM Lockridge – @globalworship on Tumblr](#))

2. "Because He Lives"

- **Authors:** Gloria Gaither (1942–) and William J. (Bill) Gaither (1936–)
- **Year Written:** 1971
 - Hymnary.org: [Because He Lives](#)

3. "He Lives"

- **Author:** Alfred H. Ackley (1887–1960)

4. CeCe Winans, "Too Late to Lose"

From the album *More Than This*. PureSprings Gospel, 2024.

Official lyric video: [CeCe Winans – Too Late To Lose // Oh The Blood Of Jesus \(YouTube\)](#)

Summary Table

Section/Element	Source/Influence	% of Total Sermon
Lockridge-style lists & phrases	S.M. Lockridge	~10–15%
Direct Scripture quotations	Bible	~40%
Hymn lyrics	Gaither/Ackley	~10%
Original narrative & application	My own/adapted	~35–40%