



Shelby Christian Church

BEFORE AND AFTER: EASTER SUNDAY - THE CROSS WASN'T THE END
MATTHEW 28:1-10, LUKE 24:5-7, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-8, 20 * 4/5/2026

Death was defeated, hope was restored, and everything changed.

What is one defining moment that has shaped who you are today? Have you ever paused to imagine how different your life might look if that moment had never taken place—what choices you might have made, what paths you might have missed? Now shift that thought to the resurrection of Jesus. If you had to capture the significance of His resurrection in a single sentence, how would you express it? And then consider this: how would history—and your own life—be altered if Jesus had not risen from the dead?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 28:1-10

Who went to visit the tomb, and when did they go? Why is the empty tomb significant for the Christian faith? What does the angel's message reveal about Jesus' power and identity? Why do you think Jesus chose to appear first to these women? What did the angel say to the women? What emotions do you think the women experienced, and which do you relate to most? What does Jesus' resurrection prove about His claims and promises? What does it mean to you that death did not have the final victory? Why is it important that the women were told to share the news with others?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 24:5-7

What is the significance of the question, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" Why was it important that Jesus' resurrection happened just as He predicted? What does this passage reveal about God's control over events? Why do you think the angels reminded the women of Jesus' own words? How does this passage connect Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection as part of one plan?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-8, 20

What part of Jesus' death and resurrection do you find most personally meaningful? Why is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus described as "of first importance"? What does it mean that Jesus was "seen by Cephas, then by the twelve, then by more than five hundred"? How does Paul's personal encounter with Jesus strengthen the credibility of the resurrection? Why is the resurrection of Jesus described as "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep"? How does the resurrection confirm Jesus' victory over sin and death?

APPLICATION

What feels dead in my life that God wants to resurrect? How does the resurrection of Jesus give hope in the face of fear, suffering, or death? What fears or doubts can the truth of the resurrection help overcome? How can reflecting on eyewitness testimony strengthen your faith? When have you experienced doubt, and how does the resurrection bring reassurance? How can believers today share the good news of Jesus' resurrection? What does it mean to truly believe that Jesus is alive? How does the resurrection change how we live our daily lives? What is one way you can live in the hope and joy of the resurrection this week?

PRAYER