

SC Church 4.5.2026

Easter Sunday
Victory over Darkness

- A. Intro: What has been the darkest time of your life.
- B. Big Idea: The power of the Resurrection is with us every day!
- C. Scripture: John 1:1-5 NLT – ¹In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He existed in the beginning with God. ³God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.
- D. What do we need to remember when feeling overwhelmed by the Darkness?
- a. Light has been Available from the Beginning
 - i. Genesis 1:1-3 NLT – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.
 - ii. John 1:1 NLT – ¹In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - iii. John 1:4 NLT – ⁴The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.
 - b. Darkness came, but has been Overcome
 - i. 2 Corinthians 4:4 NLT – ⁴Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.
 - ii. Matthew 27:45-46 NLT – ⁴⁵At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. ⁴⁶At about three o’clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” which means “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”
 - iii. Matthew 28:1-10 NLT – Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. ²Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. ³His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. ⁵Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for

Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. ⁷ And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.” ⁸ The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message. ⁹ And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.”

- iv. Revelation 20:10 NLT – ¹⁰ Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- v. 1 John 3:8 NLT – ⁸ But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

c. The Spirit of God will give you Life

- i. Romans 8:11 NLT – ¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.
- ii. 1 John 4:4b NLT – ...the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.
- iii. Colossians 1:13-14 NLT – ¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

E. Close: Where do you need the light of Jesus to shine?

- a. Ephesians 5:14 NLT – ¹⁴ for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”
- b. Next Steps
 - i. Memorize: 1 John 4:4b NLT – ...the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.
 - ii. Think: Where do I need Victory over Darkness in my life?
 - iii. Action: Commit to regular church attendance to strengthen your faith.