

Pastor Tim Koester, St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bloomfield NE,

An Easter Poem inspired by my son and Shane Koyczan

Today's the day we should be amazed,
when we sing and we shout
about a new reality that's bustin **out** the door of possibility.

A dead man's *alive*.. and it's messin with our sensibility.
Or at least it should be.

Peter that friend of Jesus, who **swore** he'd never **ignore**
what it meant to be a disciple, and then denied he ever knew the man.
Realized now it was too late. Too late to make up. Too late to take it **back**
and now he felt **trapped** by his own failure
to live up to the man Jesus made him think he could **be**. Too late because no one could
see that inside he too had died... just not so **righteously**.

This Peter was filled with **gloom**.. but some women had gone to the **tomb**
and told him it was empty.
At first they said, they were filled **fear** but some dazzling men drew **near**
and helped them remember...
remember that Jesus had said it would happen this way.
So they raced back to the house and starting spreading the news:

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

But Peter thought they must have *amnesia*
and he was amazed that they didn't remember what they saw on Friday. That blood on
the cross wasn't there for no reason. **Hope had died**
and they were huddled **inside** because nothing on earth was going to change that.

But something made him go anyway. Call it stupidity, or **curiosity**, or maybe he just had to
see if these women were just wishing for something **to be** so bad
they would believe anything.
But when he arrived and bent inside Peter discovered the women were right
like they had always been right about everything concerning Jesus.

The tomb was **empty**, a fact that was messin with Peter's sensibility.
And he went home amazed and astonished, wondering what this could **possibly** mean.

And I wonder today if we are still **amazed** about that missing body, still asking how it might
revive a world or a life so **shoddy** -we thought nothing on earth was going to change it.

Or are we satisfied with only little wonders? Like the latest new **phone** that let's you set on
the throne of impressibility... at least until somebody gets the next new one to come along.
And are we amazed by financial success, or the degree on our desk that accounts for
some fleeting sense "net worth"?

Or perhaps we're most struck by the **improbability** of our favorite sports teams winning it all,
like NC State did in 83 or the huskers in 94. It's exciting to be **sure** but is it amazing in the
"Easter" sense of the word?

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Because today we stand amazed at something much bigger and more substantial, something that doesn't really hold a **candle** to anything we can make or do.

It's the reality that Christ is Risen. **He is risen indeed Alleluia!**

And that's the aroma of new life among us... today and right now. Because what's **truly** amazing is that somehow the tomb is still **empty**. Christ IS risen -not was, or **will be**. The resurrection is power in this very moment to raise up new lives and new possibility, if we are willing to let it offend our sensibility.

Because of all the **amazing** things Jesus did while on **earth** the greatest was giving **birth** to doing things like they are not supposed to be **done**. A father is not supposed to welcome home a prodigal son with loving arms and party fit for a king.

A sinful woman shouldn't pour out extravagance grace on the feet of a **holy man**, a no-good Samaritan would be crazy to help out a **wounded man**, let alone pay his expenses upfront. Farmers don't throw seed all over the **place** and shepherds don't just leave the flock to **embrace** the one who is lost. No one expects you to love your enemy or forgive those who don't ask, or invite the outcast or the stranger to your next family feast.

Yet that's what Jesus did. That's the LIFE he rose to **give**. Stop picking at the speck in another's eye and yank the 2x8 from your own instead. Why do you look for the living among the dead? Forgive and heal and pray and **love**. That's the amazing reality given to us from above and on this day we have **seen it in action**.

This little one, the most amazing thing to me *(there was a baptism today)*
is that she didn't do anything and yet her life will never be
the same again after today.

Resurrection was poured upon her head and she **already** is risen from the dead with Jesus by her side every step of the way from this day forward and forever more. For because of Jesus, the only death she ever had to fear is already behind her. And that's the way it is for all of us.

So if you want to be amazed be amazed at that:
Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed Alleluia**

Now believe it. Trust in it. Live in it every moment of every day and see the **way** God raises up you to do his work in the world. Unexpected work that messes with our sensibility but provides amazing **capability**

to RUN..

and spread LOVE and JOY and HOPE in the most unexpected places.

So lift up your faces, my sisters and brothers,
the new day has already begun.