

## The Easter Lily

### 1 Peter 1:3-9

You know the story right?!? Christ came to earth! He lived a holy/righteous life! He suffered and died a death that He did not deserve! And on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day He rose again from the dead just as He promised He would do!

You may know the Easter story, but have you experienced the effects of it in your life? Has His story (Jesus' story) become the defining story of your life?

Have these 4 Easter truths come to define who you are today?

- **Christ has come to earth!** God took on flesh! Why does this matter? How does this truth change the reality of our lives? We have a God who has walked where we walk, who has experienced what we experience, a God who knows what it's like to be human – We are not alone!

God knows what it's like to be in our shoes b/c He took on flesh & came to earth as one of us. He can meet us where we are, b/c He's been where we are!

- **Christ lived a Holy life!** Where you and I fail to live as we should, He triumphed! He was tempted, hurt, betrayed, He was familiar with grief, yet He did not sin! Even on the cross, when forsaken by God, He still responded with love for the Father & with forgiveness for the world!

There's hope for us, as broken people, living in a broken world, b/c Jesus has overcome this world, & the power of sin over humanity - He is the new Adam!

- **Christ suffered and died a death that He did not deserve!** So what? What makes Good Friday so good? Sin is serious! It's an abomination to God! Sin before His Holy presence demands payment – death! We either pay this penalty ourselves or a worthy substitute takes our place!

Jesus stood in our place, He took the penalty of our sin upon Himself so that by faith, our sins could be forgiven, and our guilt/shame washed away!

- **On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day Christ rose again from the dead just as He promised He would do!** Why is this truth so significant for our lives today? It reveals that there's more to life than just living and dying. Death does not have the final say! There is hope, new life-eternal life, all b/c Jesus rose again

Easter is a celebration of what God makes a reality thru the person of Jesus! His resurrected life makes a new life possible for all of us today!

That brings me to the Easter Lily! Do you know why this flower has been given this name? Why it is that this flower is the one that we decorate the church with on resurrection Sunday?

The Lily has come to be known as the “white-robed apostle of hope”!

An apostle is one who is sent out into the world to proclaim the truth about Jesus Christ - The Lily is intended to be a representation of what He is for us!

- It's white color represents purity, virtue, & innocence!
- It's bloom in early spring represents hope/new life after the dead of winter!
- It's trumpet-like shape is a visible proclamation of glory being given to God!

Jesus embodies this for us, and the Lily is a tangible reminder of it!

Legend has it that lilies grew up in the exact location where Jesus died, where His sweat & tears fell to the ground during his crucifixion. This is why lilies are often seen at funerals, b/c they declare hope/resurrection, even in the presence of death!

Lilies are also found on the maternity floor in hospitals, b/c they are said to be a representation of motherhood – announcing the arrival of new life!

Again, the Lily is a tangible reminder of what Christ is for us in death & in life

Everyone of you this morning has been given a Lily to serve as that tangible reminder of Christ and the promise of new life that is found in Him!

Last week my wife and I were given a Lily as well, and she too serves as that very tangible reminder of God's ever-present, all-powerful, new life-giving presence in our lives! There's life that springs forth in the midst of death!

Picture – A flower at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Where there seems to be no signs of life, life can spring up and bloom into something beautiful!

I may not know what you are going through, but Jesus does! I may not know your suffering, but He suffered death & Hell in order to give you hope & spring forth new life out of what is dead & broken in this world!

Don't just know the story of Easter, experience it by letting God bring you new life, eternal life, through the life, death & resurrection of Jesus Christ!

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