

Because He Lives!

There is a man written about in the Bible. He and his family were disrespected at his birth. An evil king ordered every boy in his birth town, age two and under, to be killed. His parents took him to another country to save his life, and when they went back to their home country, they were forced to live in another district for their own safety.

As an adult, when he went back to his hometown and taught in the synagogue, the people were so furious with his message that they tried to push him off a cliff. During the next few years, many people tried to twist what he said, misquoted him and tried to discredit his integrity and reputation. He received many death threats and physical and emotional attacks.

In his mid-thirties, he knew his life was drawing to a close. He told his three best friends of his deep sorrow and asked them to keep watch with him in prayer. Three times he walked away to pray, came back and found them sleeping. His treasurer stole money from him and betrayed him, leading to his arrest, though he had done nothing wrong. His closest friends deserted him and fled. One of them denied him three times. His trial was completely unfair. Standard protocol was not followed. He was brutally beaten, spit upon, mocked and crucified. Even one of the criminals hanging on the cross next to him mocked him.

Talk about a man who had every right to be bitter and resentful in life and death! And yet, just before he drew his last breath Jesus said, "Father, forgive them." He died on the cross to pay the price for our sins and arose from the grave on the third day, triumphant over sin and death! When we receive his forgiveness, we gain the grace to forgive those who have wronged us. ". . . Forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

*Adapted from a column by Jon Hauser
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Call to Worship

Sounds of Hope

Invocation

Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn #367 Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Welcome and Announcements

Ron Marks

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Greeting Time

Worship in Song

Hymn #357 Christ Arose

Offertory Prayer

Craig Alexander

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Special Music

Sounds of Hope

Sermon: "Seeing is Believing"

Pastor Don Mauldin

Scripture: *Luke 24*

Hymn of Benediction

Hymn #358 Because He Lives

Pastor Don Mauldin
352-262-5349

Covenant News

Covenant Ministries

Our ministry for April is King's Ministry in Africa. Closer to home, we will also be collecting supplies for Newberry High School. They are running low and need their closet replenished. Please keep in mind that May is the last month of school and extras will probably be needed to send home with them over the summer.

Every Day is Easter

*"Easter comes but once a year."
So many people say,
But to a person saved from sin,
It's Easter every day!*

*A man when saved or born again
His life to Christ will give,
And, as a new born babe in Christ,
He's just begun to live.*

*"I am the resurrection life"
The Savior, one day said:
"And he believing in my Word,
Shall live though he is dead.*

*So when the Blood of Christ, our Lord,
Redeems a soul from sin;
Every day is Easter,
For Jesus lives within.*

Carolyn Orr