

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

*"Why do you seek the living among the dead?
He is not here, but has risen." - Luke 24:5b-6a*



“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Psalm 118:22-23

Leader: The stone which the builders rejected

People: Has become the chief corner stone.

Leader: This is the LORD'S doing;

People: It is marvelous in our eyes.

Leader: This is the day which the LORD has made;

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Colossians 2:10-14

***Hymn #286** (red hymnal) – *“Worship Christ, the Risen King!”*

Scripture Reading – Luke 24:1-12

Ancient Creedal Reading – Apostles' Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

***Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #273** (red hymnal) – *“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”*

Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Romans 6:3-7

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon – “Easter: Baptized Into Christ”

An Easter Sermon

***Hymn #277** (red hymnal) – “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Ministry of the Sacrament & Welcoming of New Members

Welcoming of New Members

Aubrey Paige Blass (B)

Dannielle Charis Lopez

Carol Ann Welch Shields (*home-bound*)

Evan James Blass (B)

David Lee Franceshetti

Ryan William Wheeler

Jennifer Lynn Blass (B)

Janelle Sara Franceshetti

Karen Ann Griska

Bradley Steven Kane (B)

Address to the Congregation & Prayer

Scripture – Matthew 28:18-20

Address to New Members

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Do you confess the Triune God, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, as the only one true God?

New M.: I do.

Pastor: Do you confess that Jesus Christ is fully God, fully man and without sin, and that He alone, by His work on the cross, can save you from God's righteous wrath?

New M.: I do.

Pastor: Do you confess your sins unto Almighty God, and trust in the good news of the crucified Christ as your only hope and salvation?

New M.: I do.

Pastor: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your God and Savior and proclaim to follow Him as your Lord?

New M.: I do.

Sacrament of Baptism

Covenantal Promise

Pastor: You have made public confession of your faith and have been baptized. Do you submit to Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, as the only written Word of God and the rule of your faith and conduct?

New M.: I do.

Pastor: Do you desire to yield yourself unto the Holy Spirit, to daily die to sin and live for Christ, to dwell among God's faithful people, worshiping on the Lord's Day, partaking of Word & Sacrament, studying the Scriptures, supporting the saints, practicing charity to all and prayerfully walking with our Lord?

New M.: I do.

Pastor: Do you agree and submit to this church's Statement of Faith, its government and organization, knowing that we are of the Reformed Congregational Faith?

New M.: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise to support the saints and ministries of this local assembly, to accept its instruction and be an active member of this congregation?

New M.: I do.

Address to the Congregation & Covenant Promise

Pastor: The Apostle Paul wrote, "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." Since we are members of the visible Church of Christ, we all have the responsibility of fellowshiping with and giving aid to these brothers and sisters in their Christian walk. Do you, members and friends of Trinity Reformed Church, part of the universal body of Christ, promise to do your part in receiving and supporting these saints?

People: We do.

Prayer, Charge, Signing of Membership Book, Presentation & Welcome of New Members

***Hymn** (see insert) – *"Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"*

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

*[Because of Easter there is no coffee hour today.]
[We will be taking a picture of the congregation right after church.]*

Announcements

- The elders have decided to create a "**Deacons' Fund**" to aid those in need within the church.
 - A special collection plate for the Deacons' Fund will be put out on the 1st Sunday of the month.
 - You can donate to the Fund at any time, just label it "Deacons' Fund."
- The church is organizing an **Internet Prayer Chain** for public prayer requests and is looking for volunteers who promise to pray for the requests sent out by email by the Prayer Chain facilitator Donna Ensminger. If you are interested, please email Pastor Doug.
- The Elders have begun to review and update the **bylaws**. If you have any suggestions, please contact one of the Elders. Copies of the bylaws can be found up front or on the webpage. trinityreformedct.org/by-laws-policies
- **Summer worship hours** will be at 9:30 AM for July and August. Sunday School for All Ages will end sometime in June.

Schedule & Upcoming Events

- Pastor Doug will be starting a **new Adult Sunday School Study** on April 7th going through the great creeds of the ancient church (Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian and Chalcedon Creeds). We will be using Christ & Creed: The Early Church Creeds & their Value for Today by Nate Pickowicz. (The book costs \$9.00.)
- There will be a **church workday**, with a pot-luck picnic, on **Saturday, April 13th**, to help Paul & Julie Latina (Paul has been very ill for a while now). The workday is from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and you can come by, and/or leave, at your convenience. We need people to volunteer for lawn-work outside, house-work inside and to bring food for the pot-luck picnic. If it rains, we will still meet and help out inside. The Latina's address is: 26 Under Mountain Rd.; Falls Village, CT 06031
- On Saturday, July 20th (with a rain date of July 27th), there will be a **pool party and picnic** for the church at the Decker-Gabelmann house. (Time & details to be announced.)

Normal Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:00-10:15 AM

Sunday School for All Ages

- Younger Children's Class (Vika Winters)
- Older Children's Class (Mason Goodell)
- Women's Study (Verna Aldrich)
Taking Hold of God: Reformed & Puritan Perspectives on Prayer edited by Joel R. Beeke & Brian G. Najapfour
- Adult Study (Pastor Doug)
Study on the Ancient Creeds

10:30 AM

LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

(Lord's Supper on the 1st Sunday)

c.11:40 AM

Coffee Hour

Tuesday

10:30 AM – Noon

Christian Classic Study (Pastor Doug's house)
Augustine's City of God

Wednesday

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Study (Pastor Doug's house)
Book of Genesis

Friday

6:30 PM

YADG – Young Adult Discussion Group (Pastor Doug's house)
1st & 3rd Fridays

Saturday

[*morning*]

Prayer Group – Meets at the Decker-Gabelmann house.
If you are interested, please contact Sheryl Gabelmann.

Contact Information

Worship: Every Sunday at 10:30 AM (9:30 AM for July & August) at the Winchester Grange: 100 Newfield Rd, Winchester Center, CT 06098

Church's Mailing Address: Trinity Reformed Church; P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065

Pastor Doug: (860) 379-1147; douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net

Online Resources

Church's Facebook Page: facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/

Church's Webpage: TrinityReformedCT.org

Church Youtube Channel: youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT

Pastor Doug's Youtube Channels:

Simply Reformed: youtube.com/simplyreformed

Pilgrims of Plunder: youtube.com/@PilgrimsofPlunder

*Liking, Commenting, Sharing
facebook posts and Subscribing,
Liking, Commenting on youtube
helps boost TRC's online
outreach.*

Leadership

Teaching & Preaching Elder: Pastor Doug Aldrich
(860-379-1147; douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net)

Ruling Elders: Bob Ensminger
(860-485-8738; robert.ensminger@arthurgrussell.com)
Rich Gabelmann
(860-605-7852; rgabelmann0415@gmail.com)

Deacons: David Mattson (*chair*), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell,
Mason Goodell, Dean Winters

Music Coordinator & Treasurer: Cindy Rines

Clerk: Sheryl Gabelmann

Sunday School: Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut
P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065
(860) 238-7399; trinityreformedct@gmail.com
trinityreformedct.org

Sermon Notes

Romans 6:3-7

"Easter: Baptized Into Christ"

An Easter Sunday Sermon

March 31, 2024

Introduction – Romans 6:3-4

1) Roman 6:3a – *"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus?"*

a) The *"all of us"* refers to Christians.

Rom 1:7

b) All Christians have been, or at least should be, baptized.

2) Why? Answer: The Lord Jesus, and His Apostles, command it.

Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16

a) Matthew 28:19-20a – *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you"*

b) Acts 2:37-39 – *"Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.'"*

3) What is baptism?

- a) Baptism is one of the sacraments of the Church.
- b) A sacrament is a worship ceremony commanded by the Lord Jesus for His church that proclaims through physical signs (water, bread & wine) the grace of the Gospel of the Triune God's good promise, like a seal, that we are in Christ.¹
- c) There are two sacraments:
 - i) **Baptism:** The sign & seal of being brought into Christ's New Covenant church through the washing of regeneration (as symbolized by water).
 - ii) **The Lord's Supper:** The sign & seal of being frequently nourished in Christ through His body and blood (as symbolized by bread & wine).

4) Never lose sight of that little word "in" or "into".

- a) We have been put "into Christ." Eph 1-2; Rom 5-8
- b) The purpose of baptism represents us being put "into" the Anointed One, literally "Christ" (or in Hebrew, "Messiah") of God – Jesus Christ.
- c) The sign (i.e. the water) is important. However, if you lose sight of what, or better yet Who, the water represents, then you are doing it wrong.

5) What aspect of Christ, in particular, have we been baptized into?

- a) Answer: Those "*baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death*" – Rom 6:3b
- b) Paul doubles down on the imagery in the next verse.
- c) Romans 6:4a – "*Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death . . .*"

6) Paul's graphic language is used to express that baptism represents that we have been fully put into Christ's death. Col 2:12; Gal 3:27

- a) As we talked about last week, the Lord Jesus referred to His death as a "baptism" that He had to undergo. Mark 10:38-39;
Luke 12:50
 - i) Christ's purpose, the purpose of the incarnation, the purpose of all history, the purpose of creation, is for the Son of God to die for the sins of the world.²
 - ii) The only way God can redeem and save is through the death of the Savior who is fully God, fully man and without sin.³

- b) Again, "*we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father . . .*" - Rom 6:4

¹ Gen 17:1-22; Ex 12:1-13; Num 9:1-14; Matt 26:17-30; 28:19; Mark 4:11; 14:22-26; Luke 22:15-20; John 6:26-58; 13:1-4; Acts 2:38-39,42,46; 8:35-38; 16:14-15,31-33; 18:8; 20:7,11; Rom 6:3-7; 1Cor 2:1-2; 4:1-2; 5:6-8; 10:1-33; 11:17-34; Gal 3:26-29; Eph 5:29-30; Col 1:24-28; 2:2-3,9-17; Eph 1:7-10; 3:2-10; 5:26,29,32; Heb 8:1-6.

² Ps 2:8; 110:1; Is 52:13-53:12; Matt 22:44; 25:34; 28:18; Mark 1:15; John 1:15,14,18; 17:24; Rom 5:6; 8:20,28,32; 1Cor 15:25; Gal 4:4; Eph 1:2,10; 1Tim 2:6; 6:15; Titus 1:3; Heb 1:1-2; 2:8; 9:26; 1Pet 1:20; Rev 13:8; 17:8

³ God cannot simply ignore sin, because He is just and good, so there has to be justice. (Ex 34:7; Ezek 18:4,20; Nah 1:2-3; Hab 1:13; Rom 5:12; 2Thes 1:6-8)

Thus, the Savior must be fully man. (Luke 1:42; 2:6-7; John 1:18; Rom 1:3; 9:5; Phil 2:7-8; Heb 2:14-17; 4:15) Because "that human nature, which has sinned, must pay for sin." (Is 53:3-5,10-11; Rom 5:15,18; 1Cor 15:21; Heb 2:14-16; 1Pet 3:18) The Savior represents mankind who will be redeemed. (Rom 5:12-18; Heb 7:8-10; 1Cor 15:22,45)

The Savior must be without sin, (Is 53:9,11; Jer 23:5; 33:16; Luke 1:35; John 8:46; 1Cor 15:21; 2Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15; 7:16,26; 1Pet 1:19; 2:22; 3:18) because "a sinful man could never pay for others." (Ps 49:7-8; Heb 7:26-27; 1Pet 3:18)

The Savior must be fully God (Is 7:14; 9:6; Jer 23:5-6; Mal 3:1; Luke 11:22; Rom 8:3; 9:5; Gal 4:4-5; Col 2:9-12; 1John 5:20) because only God can withstand God's full just wrath, conquer death, and redeem and restore to new perfect life. (Deut 4:24; Ps 76:7; 130:3; Nah 1:6; Is 53:4-11; Matt 19:25-26; John 1:4,18; 3:16; Acts 2:24; 1Pet 3:18)

7) Let's stop here for a moment before finishing this verse.

a) *"As Christ was raised from the dead"* – This is Easter!

i) How do we know that Christ's death, our faith in Him, and His sacrament of baptism is efficacious (*"power to produce effects intended"*) because Christ rose from the dead!

ii) 1Corinthians 15:3-4 – *"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,"*

b) Paul declares how Jesus *"was raised from the dead"* – *"Through the glory of the Father"*!

i) Not just power but *"glory."*

ii) This is power with splendor, amazing might, and a demonstration of power that is glorious.

iii) An act that is both powerful, amazing and beautiful. Such as:

- The glory of the Lord that covered Mount Sinai. Ex 24:16-17
- God's glory that filled the Tabernacle. Ex 40:34-35
- The raising of Lazarus is by the glory of God. John 11:4,40
- Christ will return at the end of the age *"in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."* - Luke 9:26b
- The heavenly City is illumined by the Glory of God. Rev 21:23

c) Christ's resurrection is amazing, beautiful and powerful!

8) Back to the main point . . .

a) If we *"have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death"* and *"therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father"* then . . . what?

i) If we have been baptized, put into Christ's death, and since Christ has been raised from the dead, then what does that mean for us?

ii) What is the outcome of this for us?

b) Many glorious things come to mind:

- i) Our sins forgiven? Yes! Acts 2:38; 22:16
- ii) We have been regenerated? Yes! Titus 3:5
- iii) That we are justified? Declared right in God's sight? Yes! 1Cor 6:11; 1Pet 3:21
- iv) That we have been declared holy? Yes! Eph 5:26; Heb 10:22
- v) That we have been adopted as God's own blessed child? Yes! Titus 3:3-7
- vi) That we are now citizens of Christ's eternal Kingdom? Yes! John 3:5
- vii) That we are guaranteed the glories of the perfect new heavens and new earth at the end of the age? Yes! Rev 22:14

c) All this is true. However, Paul goes someplace different in Romans 6.

d) His answer: *"so we too might walk in newness of life."* - Romans 6:4b

Newness of Life – Romans 6:5

- 1) What is this “*newness of life*?”
Rom 7:6; 2Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15; Eph 4:23-24; Col 3:10
 - a) It is about our walk with Christ right now in this life as Christians.
 - b) In systematic theology this is called “**sanctification**”:
That daily dying to sin (literally killing sin
in our lives) and living for our Lord Jesus.
Rom 6:2,8,10; 8:13;
2Cor 4:10; Gal 2:19;
2Tim 2:11; 1Pet 2:24
- 2) After saying the efficacious purpose of baptism, and Christ’s death, is about walking “*in newness of life*” you would think Paul would then start listing a bunch of do’s & don’t do’s, i.e. the Law.
- 3) Instead, Paul writes: “*For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,*” - Romans 6:5
- 4) Baptism represents being united with Christ.
 - a) Be careful here, as there are two dangers on the extremes about understanding how the Sacraments unite us with Christ.
 - b) One mistake is to think the Sacraments are magical, that they perform the task they represent by themselves without any faith needed by the believer.
 - i) Think of the Roman Catholic view that the ritual of baptism itself makes you born again.
 - ii) Or during the Lord’s Supper, that the priest’s words of consecration, turn the bread & wine literally into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
 - iii) This is very dangerous, and it is one of the reasons for the (Protestant) Reformation.
 - iv) Liberal Congregationalists can get this wrong too, such as when nominal believers get their children baptized and then the church never sees them again.
 - c) The other extreme is the sacraments are just a memorial and a remembrance.
 - i) This is the mistake of many modern Protestants & Evangelicals.
 - ii) This misses the direction of the sacraments and their purpose.
 - They are not us trying to get to God.
 - They are God speaking the Gospel to His people with visual aids.
 - d) Our Reformed Tradition argues for an in-between position.
 - i) They are a “means of grace” and “sign and seal” of the covenant of grace, which means that it is God speaking good to us and to our children. Rom 4:11
 - ii) They are powerful because God is proclaiming the Gospel in them: Like a Presidential pardon is powerful or an official declaration that ends a war.
 - iii) The Gospel is proclaimed by the sacraments and it must be received with faith.
 - Either the faith of the new adult convert.
 - Or the faith of the believing parent for their infant.
 - But remember, our faith in itself is a gift from God, solely by His grace.
 - iv) The efficacious nature of the sacraments (i.e. when they work) is not tied to the time they are administered but rest on the promises of God because the direction of the sacraments are from God to us.

- 5) So, *“if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,”* - Rom 6:5b
- a) This “newness of life” is not first and foremost about obeying the Law (though that is important!) its power is rooted in Christ, and what He has done, especially on Good Friday and Easter.
 - b) If we are in Christ’s perfect death, then we will also be in His resurrection.
- 6) *“In the likeness of His resurrection”* is about the Good News of the next life.
- a) That those in Christ will go to heaven when we die and will enter into the new heavens and the new earth with a new perfect body at the end of the age.
 - b) For Paul in Romans 6, however, the focus of the *“new life”* is about our walk with Christ in this life, as we see in Romans 6:6-7.

Death of the Old Self – Romans 6:6

- 1) As Paul writes, *“knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;”* – Romans 6:6
- 2) We “in Christ” has been crucified with Him.
 - a) Our old self has been killed on the cross.
 - b) Not just that we have been justified – Which is foundational! Again see Romans 3:21ff.
 - c) But that *“our body of sin might be done away with.”*
 - i) Yes, we get a new perfect body at the end of the age.
 - ii) Paul’s focus, however, is right now, that *“we would no longer be slaves to sin.”*
 - d) We are being commanded here to stop sinning and be holy, but how we do that is extraordinary.
- 3) Romans 5-8 are some of the most profound chapters about sanctification, in my opinion.
 - a) There is an amazing weaving together of:
 - i) **The Law** – The objective list of commands (the do’s & don’ts) from God that bring conviction of sin and prescribe our moral behavior.
 - ii) **The Gospel** – The objective proclamation of the full forgiveness we have in Christ, which is received by faith alone.
 - iii) **New Life in the Spirit** – The more subjective state of the inner working of the Holy Spirit which produces the fruit of the Spirit, especially, faith, hope and love in Christ.
 - b) If you reject one, you will eventually lose all three.
 - c) You need to have all three going at the same time as Paul teaches throughout Romans.
 - i) *The Law:* Romans 3:31; 7:12-13; 8:4; 13:9; 16:26
 - ii) *The Gospel:* Romans 1:1,15-16; 3:21-26; 10:15-16
 - iii) *Life in the Spirit:* Romans 5:5; 7:6; 8:2-27; 14:17; 15:13,16
- 4) Because your old self before faith in Christ has been killed and buried with Christ’s death, and we have been given new life because our Lord has been raised (Easter!) we are *“freed from sin.”*

Freed From Sin – Romans 6:7

- 1) As Paul writes, “for he who has died (with Christ on the cross) is freed from sin.” - Romans 6:7
- 2) What does that mean?
 - a) The word for “freed” here (δικαιόω, *dikaioō*) is a legal term.
 - b) Same term as “to justify” or “to be shown/made right”
which is used throughout Romans. Rom 2:13; 3:4,20,24,26,28,30;
Rom 4:2,5; 5:1,9; 6:7; 8:30,33
 - c) We have been declared right in God’s sight, freed from His judgment,
and our guilt removed, because we have been put in Christ. Rom 3:20-4:5
 - d) We also have been freed/released from the control of sin in our lives.
 - i) Which is the focus of Romans 6:7.
 - ii) We no longer serve sin but now serve Christ.
 - iii) We are freed to live in and for Him.
 - iv) Our good works are now pleasing to God because they have been covered
by the blood of Christ.
 - v) And we can now do good works because we are in Christ. Eph 2:10; Titus 3:8
- 3) Martin Luther gives a great analogy about this in his The Freedom of a Christian from 1520.
 - a) Imagine you are a harlot. Guilty of the heinous crime of harlotry, living a life of death
and deserving death.
 - i) If you don’t get sin, you will not understand anything.
 - ii) This is why, when Paul starts his detailed description of the Gospel,
he begins with sin in Romans 1:18ff.
 - iii) If you want to live: Run to the fire, hug the bomb, lose your life and you will find it.
 - b) The great and good king, solely by a work of his sovereign grace, love and mercy,
marries you.
 - c) Thus, your legal status has now radically changed.
 - i) You are no longer a harlot.
 - ii) You are now a queen.
 - iii) Because the king has done this and the king’s will and word is law!
 - d) This radical legal change brings great freedom.
 - i) Freedom from the condemnation of the crime of harlotry.
 - You are declared innocent by the proclamation of the good news by the king.
 - Which you receive by faith alone.
 - ii) You are also freed from a life of harlotry.
 - You have a new life; One as living as a queen.
 - The king’s bride.
 - iii) And you are freed in an internal sense.
 - You no longer have the heart of a harlot but of a queen.
 - Who trusts in her king, which gives great hope and produces in you love for the
king, his ways, his laws, his people, all his neighbors, and even his enemies.

iv) Yes, sometimes you might slip back into those old bad habits of being harlot.

- However, you will grow more and more to hate those habits of the old life and they will die in you.
- Because the king loves you and you trust in him and you want to live in/for/with/by him.

4) I trust you heard the Christian life in this parable? SoS; 2Cor 11:2; Eph 5:23-27; Rev 19:7-8; 21:2

a) That we are Christ's bride and He is our Bridegroom and King!

b) I hope you also heard the goodness of the Law, the Gospel and Life in the Spirit.

Conclusion

1) The purpose of Easter is Christ's triumph over death.

a) We know that Jesus is God, our Lord and Savior because He has defeated death.

b) Yes, this means we are fully justified before God and will receive eternal life in heaven.

c) However, it is also about newness of life here, right now. 1Thes 5:10; 2Tim 2:11

2) As Paul writes in Romans 6:8-11 – *“Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

3) This is proclaimed to us by Easter and when the Gospel is preached and in the sacrament of baptism is given.