

SATURDAY, APRIL 25



I Corinthians 15:17–20 ♦ Psalm 94:1–11

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. *I Corinthians 15:20*

Follow the Leader

A few days ago, we talked about Jesus' resurrection as different from others. His death was undeserved, and His resurrection is eternal. So what about Lazarus and all those others who eventually died again?

In the reading, Paul talks about firstfruits. In other words, Jesus went first. Jesus went to the cross, was buried in the tomb, declared victory over hell, and rose from the dead. Then He ascended. He did these things first.

So now what? Well, we follow. Connected to Christ, we know that we can expect a resurrection like His. He paved the way, and He promises to return.

"Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day prison, Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen" (*LSB* 482:R).

Does Jesus' resurrection matter? Absolutely. If Jesus was still lying in His grave, we would expect to do the same. "But in fact," Paul writes, "Christ has been raised from the dead." Hundreds of witnesses, angels, and the Bible itself attest to this fact. Jesus kept His promise to die. He kept His promise to rise. He will surely keep His promise to return and bring us all back to life.

*Risen Savior, You promised to return for us.
Amen! Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.*