

WE BELIEVE

Jesus, our Risen Hope

Pastor Danny Gray

April 20, 2025

KEY SCRIPTURES

1 Peter 3:18-19

John 20:26-29

The Apostles Creed

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord.*

*He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and
born of the Virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died, and was buried.*

*He descended to the dead. On the third
day He rose again.*

*He ascended into Heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father;*

*He will come again to judge the living
and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, one holy
church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This Resurrection Sunday we're reminded of the powerful truth at the heart of our faith: Jesus died, and then, three days later, He rose from the dead! As we walk through the Apostles' Creed together, we pause at this line—"He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again"—to reflect on what it really means for us. **When Jesus died, hope died.** His followers, just like us in our darkest moments, felt abandoned and confused. No one expected a resurrection. But then something changed—His heart started beating, His lungs filled with air, and hope began to rise again!

We may wrestle with the mystery of where Jesus went during those days in the grave, just as Christians have for centuries. But maybe the more important truth for us is not where He went, but that He *actually* died—and then He *actually* came back to life. Like Thomas, we sometimes doubt—not just the resurrection, but whether Jesus sees us, remembers us, or loves us. And yet, Jesus meets us in those doubts, just like He met Thomas, offering His peace and presence.

The resurrection wasn't just a moment in history; it was the beginning of renewed hope for all of us. **When Jesus rose, hope rose.** May it rise in each of us today, as we put our faith in the power of our resurrected saviour!

Reflection

INDEPENDENT STUDY

START HERE

Before you launch into the questions, read the Apostles Creed aloud. We encourage you to start each session of this series in this way.

DIG DEEPER

Reflect on these questions independently.

1. Is there anything from this message that surprised, inspired, or challenged you?
2. When you hear the line, "He descended to the dead," what does that stir in you? How does it deepen your understanding of Jesus' death?
3. Have you ever felt like hope was lost? What was that season like for you?
4. Pastor Danny shared a personal story of encountering Jesus in a real, though unseen, way. Have you ever had a moment like that—where Jesus made Himself known to you personally?
5. Jesus didn't shame Thomas for doubting—He showed up. How might this change the way you approach Jesus with your own doubts?
6. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (John 20:29). What helps you believe when it's hard?
7. Pastor Danny said, "When Jesus died, hope died. When Jesus rose, hope rose." What area of your life needs resurrection hope right now?

PRAYER

Jesus, I stand amazed by the power of Your resurrection. You lived a life I could not live, and died a death I should have died. Thank you for making the ultimate sacrifice out of your love for me. Because You live, I have hope in every circumstance. Everything I may face in this life, You've already conquered. Thank you for standing with me always. I trust You, believe in You, and love you. Amen.

GROUP STUDY

START HERE

Before you launch into your discussion, recite the Apostles Creed aloud together. We encourage you to start each session of this series in this way.

DIG DEEPER

Discuss these questions in your Life Group.

1. Is there anything from this message that surprised, inspired, or challenged you? Share it with the group.
2. When you hear the line, "He descended to the dead," what does that stir in you? How does it deepen your understanding of Jesus' death?
3. Have you ever felt like hope was lost? What was that season like for you?
4. Pastor Danny shared a personal story of encountering Jesus in a real, though unseen, way. Have you ever had a moment like that—where Jesus made Himself known to you personally?
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7. Pastor Danny said, "When Jesus died, hope died. When Jesus rose, hope rose." What area of your life needs resurrection hope right now?