

The Greater Light

The End Time Messenger

“... Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed Repentance and Baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that THE GREATER LIGHT might come to them.”
Message 53:3

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Happy Easter!

**“And he saith unto them,
Be not affrighted:
Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth,
which was crucified:
he is risen; he is not here:
behold the place where they
laid him.”**

Mark 16:6



The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message
THE ASSURED WAY OF THE LORD, Inc.
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE AMERICAS, AFRICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND EUROPE

Articles of Faith and Practice

1. We believe in God the Eternal Father, who only is Supreme; Creator of the universe; Ruler and Judge of all; unchangeable and without respect of persons.
2. We believe in Jesus Christ the manifestation of God in flesh, who lived, suffered, and died for all mankind; whom we own as our only Leader, Witness, and Commander.
3. We believe in the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, which searcheth the deep things of God, brings to our minds things which are past, reveals this to come, and is the medium by which we receive the revelation of Jesus Christ.
4. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression, and that as a consequence of the atonement of Christ "all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without the Law. For the power of redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, cannot repent, and unto such, baptism availeth nothing." (Moroni 8:22)
5. We believe that through the atonement of Christ all men may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel; viz.: Faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ; Repentance and Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; Laying on of Hands for: (a) Ordination; (b) Blessing of Children: (c) Confirmation and the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17); (d) Healing of the sick.
6. We believe in the literal second coming and millennial reign of Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the Dead, and in Eternal Judgment; that men will be rewarded or punished according to the good or evil they may have done.
7. We believe in the powers and gifts of the everlasting Gospel; viz.: The word of wisdom; the word of knowledge; the gift of faith; the gift of healing; working of miracles; prophecy; discerning of spirits; divers kinds of tongues; interpretation of tongues.
8. We believe the fruits of the Spirit to be love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.
9. We believe that in the Bible is contained the Word of God; that The Record of the Nephites is the added witness for Christ; and these contain the "fullness of the gospel."
10. We believe in the principle of continuous revelation; that the canon of scripture is not full, that God inspires men in every age and among all people, and that He speaks when, where, and through whom He may choose.
11. We believe that where there are six or more regularly baptized members, one of whom is an elder, there the Church exists with full power of Church extension when acting in harmony with the Law of God.
12. We believe that man must be called of God by revelation and ordained by those having authority, to enable him to preach the Gospel and administer the Ordinances thereof.
13. We believe in the same Church organization as existed in the time of Christ and His apostles. The highest office in the Church is that of an apostle, of whom there are twelve, who constitute special witnesses for Jesus Christ. They have the Missionary Supervision and the General Watchcare of all the Churches.
14. The primary function of the General Church, of which each Local Church is a component part, is missionary and the building up and extension of the Kingdom of God in all the world.
15. We believe that Local Churches should govern their own affairs and that General Church officials should not dominate or interfere therewith. On invitation such general officers may, with propriety, give counsel and assistance. Local congregations are subject to the Articles of Faith and Practice and must be governed thereby.
16. We believe The Church of Christ comprehends the true brotherhood of man where each esteems his brother as himself and wherein the Divine command to "love your neighbor as yourself" is demonstrated by the prevalence of social equality.
17. We believe that all men are stewards under God and answerable to Him not only for the distribution of accumulated wealth, but for the manner in which such wealth is secured. The primary purpose of stewardship is not the increase of church revenue or the mere contribution of money by those who have to those who have not, but to bring men to a realization of the common fatherhood and the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life, and to maintain such social adjustments that each may enjoy the bounty and gifts of God, and be free to exercise his talents and ability to enrich the life of all.
18. We believe that men should labor for their own support and that of their dependents. Ministers of the Gospel are not absolved from this responsibility, but when chosen or appointed by the Church to devote their entire time to missionary work, their families are to be provided for out of the General Church fund. The admonition of Christ that ministry should not provide purse or scrip for their journey, but go trusting in God and the people, is applicable.
19. We believe that the temporal affairs of the General Church are to be administered by the general bishopric under the supervision and direction of general conferences of the Church. The temporal affairs of the Local Churches shall be administered by local bishops under the supervision and direction of the local congregations.
20. We believe that marriage is ordained of God, and that the Law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman. In case of a breach of this covenant the innocent one may remarry.
21. We believe oppose to war. Men are not justified in taking up of arms against their fellows except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.
22. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel, and in the restoration of the ten lost tribes.
23. We believe a Temple will be built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will reveal Himself and endow His servants whom He chooses with power to preach the Gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue, and people, that the promise of God to Israel may be fulfilled.
24. We believe that New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land "unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, (Ether 13:4-8; III Nephi 10:17), which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot."
25. We believe that ministry and membership should abstain from the use of tobacco, intoxicating liquors and narcotics, and should not affiliate with any society which administer oaths or covenants in conflict with the Law of God, or which interfere with their duties as freemen and citizens.

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Message 53.3, "Give ear, Oh ye people of the earth. Hear The Warning today. I speak The Words and Will of The Lord. Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed repentance and baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that **THE GREATER LIGHT** might come to them."

Message 53.10, "Yea, I have brought a Warning and few prepare for **THE GREATER LIGHT**, but be thou Faithful even all who hear, for The Lord's Will shall be fulfilled in all things. All have their work to do and the day comes when The Lord shall breathe upon The Chosen and they shall do His Work in Mighty Power for their love toward the brethren. All that offend and that do not keep His Commandments shall not be His in the Last Day. Moreover, it is Christ's Words that shall judge all men."

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It is the agreement of *The Quorum of Twelve of this Church*, that no Minister is to Ordain any man into *The Ministry* until said candidate has with all his heart and soul confessed he agrees with everything written in *The Articles of Faith and Practice*.

It is each Elder's duty to Seek Guidance from and to keep The Territorial Apostle informed of his works in the region he is laboring.

Secretary For The Twelve

FOREWORD

THE GREATER LIGHT, the official publication of *The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message, The Assured Way of The Lord, Inc.*, comes to YOU as an expression of a united people, whose only aim is to promote *The Cause of Christ* by spreading abroad to every nation, tongue and people, *The True Gospel of Christ* that through Obedience to His Laws we might be found worthy of *Eternal Life*.

In this publication, *The Record of The Nephites* is quoted many times. This Book was Revealed and Translated by *The Gift and Power of God*: the year 1829 marked the beginning of *The Restoration of all things*. It is history of the people who once lived in the region around *The Great Lakes*, some of whom are Ancestors of The Native Americans. Though it contains a Record of two other groups of people who once lived here, it is for the most part a Record of The People of Nephi.

The Messages so often mentioned in this publication are Messages from The Lord, brought to earth by His Chosen Servant, John The Baptist, who comes to earth in a Glorified Body to finish The Work given to him of God; that of Restoring all things (Matthew 17: 11-13). The Angel first came in 1829, and Restored *The Authority of the Son of*

God, that *The Church of Christ* might be Established as in The Days of The Apostles.

In 1927, The Angel Messenger again appeared, and on numerous subsequent visits, has brought to us *The Word of The Lord* that *The Church of Christ* might be set in Order, that a people might be Prepared to be *The Bride of Christ*. This is *The Elijah Message* so many have looked for, *The Midnight Cry* has been Proclaimed, *A Warning of Destruction*, but to *The People of The Lord*, a Message that Christ's soon Coming is near at hand. Fear God and give *Glory to His Name*, for *The Hour of His Judgement* has come. Awake those that sleepest and Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you *Light*.

We hope that whosoever reads these pages might make it a matter of Prayer and Fasting in Humility before God, that they may know for themselves, that God has again Spoken and Revealed *His Will* from Heaven. To this end, we Dedicate *The Greater Light*.

THE BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS THE QUORUM OF TWELVE

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Thank you.



THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY

To All People

Eighty-First Message

In this month of March the Messenger appeared to me on two different occasions. The room each time was light as noon day. He stood looking at me and smiled each time, but disappeared before I could arise. I felt he would come again soon and leave a Message. Many were praying for his return to bring more of the words and will of the Lord. He appeared the third time, March 30, 1965, at 2:40 a.m. at my home, 1500 W. Lexington Avenue, Independence, Missouri and left the following Message. He spoke slowly and I wrote it word for word as he gave it. He left at 4:31 a.m., thus he was with me lacking nine minutes of being two hours.

-W.A. Draves

1. "Arise and take the Message I will give you.

2. Fret not nor worry not, this is the Lord's work. I have come to you and given the Message. The authority and trust is upon you. No one nor none other can take it from you. All that they have, you have given them of the Lord's calling.

3. Some will turn against this work. Some will let satan destroy them, others will be true. Some will yet arise to faithful works, upholding you and the Message I bring from the Lord's planning and will.

4. You have done the Lord's will and work. Preserve the work and keep sacred the authority, and the Lord's power will be upon you. Stand firm, hold to your calling.

5. Let none destroy the plan nor the power or sacredness of the holy priesthood after the order of the son of God that was once delivered to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, and faithfully preserved to this

day and time through the remnant unto which the Lord has sent me, and I have continued to come to, sent of the Lord God, establishing anew through the command of obedience of baptisms through the Lord's servant Otto Fetting and your fellow leader who was faithful in his day of works.

6. Now you have been faithful to set firm, legally establishing the line of authority, preserved into the remnant whom God shall call- through whom His work shall be accomplished.

7. Adjust yourselves to be up and doing.

8. Those that hinder, let them be removed for already they doubt the words I bring, and fail to see the Lord's hands moving.

9. Add to your faith knowledge, wisdom and obedience in all things, hope in eternal salvation.

10. Ye that are afar off, ye that are near, ye that are almost persuaded, come into this way and work of the Lord. Greater responsibilities will be yours to have and to hold in service to the Lord in His way.

11. Seek to save yourselves, endure and seek to bring salvation to others, bring them into this work.

12. Fear not what men may say of you and your work. There are those when they hear will go all the way with you and the Message I bring.

13. Remember the Lord Jesus Christ is the truth, the way and the life. No other way can mankind be saved and that in the life of the flesh, this life of probation only. Mankind chooses this day what his destiny shall be in the hereafter- in the resurrection.

14. When the saints gather for their prayers and humbly seeking the Lord, in their communion, the Lord's supper or sacrament, let them partake the bread an emblem of the Lord's body; the wine unfermented grape juice from the fruit of the vine, emblem of the blood of the Lamb of

God: spilled for all mankind that the sins of the truly repentant that look to Him may be forgiven and have life and find it more abundantly.

15. He that striveth for the mastery, let him be temperate in all things.

16. The tongue of fire kindleth a world of iniquity. Watch therefore and pray. Go therefore and deliver the decrees to those that are ordained of this work- that they may keep them.

17. Let all come to attendance to exhortations to doctrine that greater light may come, and it will to those that prepare for it, unto the measure of Christ, in all things showing good works.

18. Remember there is one God, one Jesus Christ, between God and men who gave Himself a ransom for all- that mankind may be redeemed, even the saving of sinners, a way of deliverance.

19. Let the shepherds feed the flock that they fear no more, and they shall not want. Let your cloak and mantle be humility, for grace shall come to all such. Christ giveth the life that they may have it more abundantly, a pure heart and faithful works, a good conscience toward God and your fellowmen.

20. Let the words I bring be the rule and guide with The Articles of Faith and Practice, for upon all the Lord's words, will and planning shall this work be built.

21. Let the house of the Lord be built, and The Church of Christ with the words I bring, The Elijah Message, be established everywhere. Come! All that love the Lord and this work, work together. This is the Lord's anointed, and appointed, the associated ones of faith. Peace be unto all.

22. Many represent Christ, but you men are to represent Christ and His church.

23. The church is organized. I have given the type and leadership, the way through the gates is open. Repentance and faith are the beginning, worship and receive the gift.

The hands must be laid upon all that the Spirit might come to those that prepare for it.

24. Heed my message for this is my mission. The doctrine is given, and is set forth in the *Bible*, *The Record of the Nephites* and *The Word of the Lord*, the words I bring.

25. I am John the Baptist, the spirit and power of Elias, the Elias, the Elijah which was for to come to restore all things. I am the elect one, the horn, the Ancient of Days, I am the forerunner, I am the Messenger of the covenant, the promised one. I came before the Christ, preached repentance in the wilderness. I proclaim the word again before the Christ shall come again. I shall be with Him when He comes to claim His Bride, the Church.

26. This is the assured way, the way of life and salvation. Let all men flow into this way.

27. As mankind subdues the earth and climbs to other spheres and planets, learns God's great universe, the closer he comes to unveiling all mysteries and understandings be uncovered.

28. I have come at the Lord's appointing. I have been sent. May the Church be steady for time of the end draws nigh.

29. Let the Message and word of life be broadcasted everywhere, to every nation, language and tongue, to every heart.

30. Let the work continue everywhere, far and near. Let all take courage for the Lord has sent me. I am your fellow servant. I bring the warning of Christ coming and instructions of His will to the Church.

31. Let Steve Martin be set apart as an elder. The Lord has heard his prayers and knows his humility.

32. Let Raymond Ridgell and Milfred O. Walberg come in this work and let them be set apart as elders, moreover as evangelists in this work. The Lord will bless them in their faith and efforts. Much good can be

done. Many can be brought to know the truth, this way of life.

33. As I speak to you, so is my Message to all. Give this Message to the brethren, the Church, let it be published with the rest.

34. Peace I leave with you. Amen.”

From the Apostles

The Easter Story As Told in the Gospels

Leonard Draves

John 3:16-17, ‘For God so Loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be Saved.’

The Last Supper

Mark 14:16-17, ‘And His Disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as He said unto them: and they made ready for The Passover. And in the evening He cometh with the twelve.’

Mark 14:22-25, ‘And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and Blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, ‘*Take, eat; this is My Body*’. And He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And He said unto them, ‘*This is My Testament, which is shed for many. Verily I say unto you. I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the Kingdom of God.*’

Matthew 27:27-31, “Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gather unto Him the whole band

of soldiers. And they stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet robe.

And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His Head, and reed in His Right Hand; and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying hail King of the Jews! And they spit on Him, and took the reed, and smote Him on the Head. And after that they had mocked Him, they took the robe off from Him, and put His own raiment on Him and led Him away to crucify Him.”

Luke 23:26-27, ‘And as they led Him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid The Cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. And there followed him a great company of people and women, which also bewailed and lamented Him.’

Luke 23:33-34, ‘And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, ‘*Father forgive them; for they know not what they do.*’

John 19:23-24, ‘Then the soldiers when they had Crucified Jesus, took His Garments and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also His Coat: now the Coat was without seam woven from the top through.

They said therefore among them-selves. ‘*Let us not rent it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be*’: that The Scriptures might be fulfilled, which saith, and for My vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.”

Jesus Dies and Is Buried

Luke 23:44-47, ‘And it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the vail of The Temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said,

'Father into Thy Hands I commend My Spirit'; and having said thus, He gave up the ghost. Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, *'Certainly this was a righteous man'*.

Matthew 27:57-60, 'When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' Disciple. He went to Pilate, and begged The Body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded The Body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken The Body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher, and departed.'

Mark 15:47, 'And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus beheld where He was laid.'

Jesus Is Risen

Mark 16:2-7, 'And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun, And they said among themselves, *'Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulcher?'* And they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, *'Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified; He is Risen; He is not here: Behold the place where they laid Him. But go your way, tell His Disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him, as He said unto you.'*

Mark 16:19-20, 'So then, after The Lord had spoken unto them, He was received up into Heaven and sat on The Right Hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, The Lord working with them, and confirming The Word with signs following. Amen.'

Articles

Witnesses of Christ After His Resurrection

Ruby Draves

When we celebrate Easter, we celebrate the great sacrifice that God made for us. We talk about His death and His wonderful resurrection. But we often forget that once resurrected, He did not simply return to Heaven. He tarried back and forth between Heaven and earth for quite some time, ministering among the disciples and the people as a resurrected being. Had He simply returned to Heaven without revealing Himself to the people, it would be hard to dispel any claims that His followers merely stole and hid His body. That would cause doubt amongst the people invalidating, in their minds, Jesus as God in the flesh. By revealing Himself, moving, living and talking among the people after His death, Jesus left no question who He was. Here is God in the flesh who they watched die upon the cross, who was placed in the tomb and is now walking amongst them 3 days later exhibiting the irrefutable evidence of the His crucifixion. Is this not enough evidence for the people to understand the immense importance of this event and undisputable proof who Jesus really was? One would think. Unfortunately, there were many more whose hearts were hardened than those who believed. But among the believers, who witnessed Jesus after His resurrection? What did Jesus do and where did He go before ascending into Heaven?

Mary Magdalene, Mary- mother of James, & Joanna

John 20:14-18, Mark 16:9, Matthew 28.8-10, & Luke 24:1-10

Mark 16:9 notes that Mary Magdalene was the first person that Jesus appeared to after His resurrection. Similarly, John 20:14-18 describes her morning encounter. After realizing the tomb was empty, she immediately ran to tell Simon Peter and another disciple. Together they returned to the tomb finding it, indeed, empty. Unable to do anything, the men left to return home but Mary remained. Two angels appeared in the tomb and explained and encourage her not to worry; Jesus had risen. The angels no more disappeared when Jesus appeared. Mary did not initially recognize Him until He spoke telling her He had risen and instructing her to tell His disciples. She did so but unfortunately, they did not believe her. Matthew 28:8-10 mentions that Mary was joined by Mary, the mother of James and together they told the disciples of Christ's resurrection. Luke 24:1-10 includes Joanna among the group.

2 Disciples/Men on the Road of Emmaus

Luke 24:13-31 & Mark 16:12

Later that afternoon, 2 men walking toward Emmaus was approached by another while talking about the events of the day. The man asked what they were discussing. Cleopas, surprised that this stranger was unaware of the day's events, told Him. The man accompanied them into the city discussing Christ's life in depth. It was not until the man broke bread and blessed it during dinner, that the 2 disciples recognized their new friend to be Jesus. Almost immediately, Jesus disappeared.

Simon Peter

Luke 24:33-35, 1 Corinthians 15:4-5, Acts 1:2-3

Having been a member of Jesus's core followers, it is not surprising that Peter would be among those to witness Jesus after His resurrection. Acts 1:2-3 notes that Jesus "shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen

of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:" Peter is the first mentioned by the 2 men from Emmaus. When they returned to Jerusalem to tell the disciples of their experience, they mentioned that Jesus had appeared to Simon (Peter). Paul confirmed that Peter had seen Christ saying that "... He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:" Paul was speaking of Peter (John 1:42)- Cephas being the Aramaic word meaning rock.

11 Disciples

Luke 24:33-47, Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:14, & John 20:19-25

While the 2 men from Emmaus visited with 11 of the disciples, Jesus appeared among the group. After showing them his hands and feet he sat and ate with the men. He told them that it was now on them to preach the Gospel, particularly repentance and the remission of sin. They are to baptize the people as well. John 20:19-25 notes that Thomas was missing from the group and upon hearing what the others had experienced, he displayed doubt saying until he himself could witness these things, he would not believe.

All Disciples

John 20:26-28

8 days later, Jesus once again appeared to the disciples: this time Thomas in attendance. Jesus showed Thomas His wounds to ease his doubt.

7 Disciples in Galilee

John 21:1-23

Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, the sons of Zebedee and 2 other disciples were fishing on the Sea of Tiberias. We can include James and John in this group as the "sons of Zebedee" (Mark 1:19-20). Paul confirms this in 1 Corinthians 15:7 as well as John, himself, as the author of this ac-

count (John 21:15-25). Upon returning empty handed from fishing the night before, the men saw Jesus on the shore. He asked them if they had caught anything and when they hadn't instructed them to send their nets over the right side of the boat. The nets became so full of fish that the men could not pick up the nets. It was then, that they realized they were talking with Christ. Christ invited them on shore to dine with Him. Luke notes that this was the 3rd time, Jesus had revealed Himself to the men.

500+ Brethren

1 Corinthians 15:6

Paul mentions that after Peter had seen Jesus that Jesus was "seen of above five hundred brethren at once..."

Paul

1 Corinthians 15:8-9, Acts 9:3-6 & Acts 22:17-21

Paul mentioned that he was the last to see Jesus but long after His resurrection for he was "least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." (1 Corinthians 15:9). Paul saw Jesus on the road to Damascus and during a trance, while praying in the Temple.

2500 Nephites

3 Nephi 11-29

Unknown to those who followed Him, Jesus had other sheep in another land. After His resurrection, Jesus came to administer to the Nephites. 3 Nephi 11:5-11 describes the moment the Nephite people saw Christ. "And again the third time they did hear the voice, and did open their ears to hear it, and their eyes were towards the heaven, from whence the sound came;

6. And behold this time they did understand the voice, which they heard; and it said unto them,

7. Behold my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified

my name; hear ye him.

8. And it came to pass as they understood, they cast their eyes up again towards heaven; and behold, they saw a man descending out of heaven; and he was clothed in a white robe, and he came down and stood in the midst of them, and the eyes of the whole multitude was turned upon him, and they durst not open their mouths, even one to another, and wist not what it meant, for they thought it was an angel that had appeared unto them.

9. And it came to pass that he stretched forth his hand and spake unto the people, saying,

10. Behold, I am Jesus Christ, of which the prophets testified shall come into the world;

11. And behold, I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drank out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me; and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning."

Over the course of several visits, the first lasting 3 days (3 Nephi 26:12), Jesus taught and ministered to the people. He touched on many topics, making sure to:

- Bestow the power of Baptism-
3 Nephi 11:21-22
- Explain the Godhead-
3 Nephi 11:27 & 36
- Choose 12 men to Preach-
3 Nephi 12:1-2
- Teach the Beatitudes-
3 Nephi 12:3-12
- Teach How to Pray-
3 Nephi 13:9-13
- Warn Against False Prophets-
3 Nephi 14:15-20
- Speak about "Other Sheep"-
3 Nephi 15:11-24
- Heal the Sick-
3 Nephi 14:5-10
- Bless the Children-
3 Nephi 17:10-12, 21-25

- Teach & Administer the Sacrament-
3 Nephi 18:1-4 & 20:1-9
- Teach Isaiah-
3 Nephi 22:1-23:3
- Discuss the Importance of the Scriptures-
3 Nephi 23:1-6, 14
- Teach Malachi-
3 Nephi 24:1-25:6
- Name the Church-
3 Nephi 24:13-22
- Grant the 3 Nephites' Wishes-
3 Nephi 28:1-40

Lost Tribes of Israel

3 Nephi 17:1-4

During one of His visits with the Nephites, Jesus acknowledged the people were weak and so He bid them farewell saying, "...Behold my time is at hand.

2. I perceive that ye are weak, that ye cannot understand all my words, which I am commanded of the Father to speak unto you at this time;

3. Therefore, go ye unto your homes, and ponder upon the things which I have said, and ask of the Father, in my name, that yea my understand and prepare your minds for the morrow, and I will come unto you again;

4. But now I go unto the Father, and also to shew myself unto the lost tribes of Israel, for they are not lost unto the Father, for he knoweth whither he hath taken them."

Young Adults

Ruby Draves

The Easter Promise

Among Christians, Easter is the most important holiday outside of Christmas. Some may say it is more important than Christmas because of the promise that Je-

sus made when He sacrificed His life for all of us. His death and resurrection means that we have the opportunity of everlasting life with Him. However, this does not mean that we have an automatic place with Him, that the road we travel will not have potholes and obstacles, nor does this promise mean it will be easy. After all, Jesus had been crucified for our sins.

In fact, being an early Christian often meant worshipping in secret or living a life in hiding. Christians refused to worship the Roman state or its emperor. Outwardly worshipping God or celebrating His resurrection meant being labeled a traitor or an enemy of the state. One could be arrested, imprisoned or even put to death just for your belief. It was hard times.

Just ask the people closest to Jesus. Judas, one of the disciples, betrayed Jesus turning Him into the Roman soldiers. And Peter, another disciple, denied knowing Jesus on three separate occasions the night before His crucifixion. Joseph of Arimathea took care of Jesus's body after His death and placed Him in an unused tomb. But up until that point, Joseph had secretly served Jesus because of his place on the Jewish council.

Although Easter was officially made a holiday for all to openly celebrate, it took almost 300 years to do so. And even so, this still doesn't mean that living a Christian life is any easier. We may not see the level of persecution that occurred in Roman times, but we still struggle living and walking the road of righteousness every day. There are pitfalls and temptations around every corner. But we have the promise of the resurrection, giving us hope. We know that if we strive to be righteous and keep the faith, that God will be with us. If we are truly repentant, forgiveness is afforded to us. And better yet, God is always present with a helpful guiding hand when temptations and struggles come our way.

Message 108:8, “Let mankind respect the Lord Christ, and honor Him; His sacrifice on the cross and resurrection, bearing the sins of all that will come unto Him and receive deliverance and salvation.”

Message 113: 4 “The Lord Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He is the Savior, Redemer, and King of all mankind. All that hear and obey have right to the tree of life and to eternity...”

Message 106:8, “Remember the Lord Jesus Christ is the truth, the way of life and salvation- deliverance from all sin. No other way can mankind be saved in the life of the flesh, this life of probation only. Thus mankind chooses this day what his destiny shall be in the hereafter- in the resurrection.”

Message 84:6 “Keep the faith and endure and the sunlight of righteousness shall arise over you, with healing in His wings and ye shall be preserved in the hour when trials are upon you. Deliverance will come...”

Message 113:11, “... Study deeply the words I bring and it will work well with you. As you believe the words of the Lord and the prophet, and obey, satan has no power on you.”

Message 93:3, “... ‘Come all the way and deliverance will be yours.’ You will stand in holy places and inherit in the will of the Lord...”

Message 79:23, “... ‘Let all who come to this great light come in by the door and lift their faith to me,’ saith the Lord, ‘for I will be with you all the way.’”

Message 102:54, “Eternity has place for all that look to the Lord and view Him as their Savior, Lord and King.”

So this Easter, remember what God has done for us. Understand that His love and protection does not mean mistakes, trials, struggles and challenges will not occur. Instead, know that when faced with these things, God has made a promise that He

will be by our side if we are faithful. His sacrifice makes it possible for all of us to join Him one day.

Junior

Thresa Ray

Psalms

Dear Youth,

What is a Psalm? The word ‘psalm’ means praise. We have ‘The Book of Psalms’ in the Old Testament of our Holy Bible. It is the longest book in the bible and contains 150 poems of praise to God. The Israelites sang these songs when they worshipped the Lord.

Remember the shepherd boy, David? He went to see his older brothers that were fighting in the Israelite army against the Philistines. Everyone was afraid to fight the Philistines because of their huge 9 foot 9 inch giant, Goliath, that led that army. But David was led by God to fight Goliath with only a slingshot and a rock! You remember the story that David slew Goliath! David also played music for King Saul because it would calm the King. When David was older, he was anointed King of Israel! It is this same David, that wrote the beautiful book of Psalms!

People love the book of Psalms today because these psalms help us celebrate God and His goodness. They help us in our good times and in our times of stress and trouble!

Some psalms are cries for God’s help:

Psalm 22:1. “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? Why art Thou so far from helping me, and

from the words of my roaring?"

Psalm 25:4-5, "Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths.

5. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for Thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day."

Many of the psalms give thanks to the Lord.

Psalm 116:1 & 8, "I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications.

8. For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling."

Psalms of praise describe the greatness of God.

Psalm 100:1-3, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

2. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.

3. Know ye the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture."

Some psalms show the faithfulness of our Lord.

Psalm 128:1-6, "Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in His ways.

2. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

3. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

4. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord.

5. The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

6. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's

children, and peace upon Israel."

Some psalms explain how God wants us to live.

Psalm 1:1-2, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night."

Probably the best know psalm is the 23rd Psalm verses 1-6.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me besides the still waters.

3. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

The 23rd Psalm is so beautiful and so very meaningful. I came across a video on the internet of a lady stating the meaning of each line of this psalm. I'm sorry I don't know her name to give her credit but it was so beautifully done that I wanted to share it with you.

1. "The Lord is my shepherd;" - *that's a relationship.*

"I shall not want." - *that's supply.*

2. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:" *-that's rest.*

He leadeth me besides the still waters." *-that's refreshment.*

3. He restoreth my soul: -- *that's healing.*

"He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness" *-that's guidance.*

"for His name's sake." *-that's purpose.*

4. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death," *-that's testing.*

"I will fear no evil:" *-that's protection.*

"for thou art with me;" *-that's faithfulness.*

"thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." *-that's discipline.*

5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;" *-that's hope.*

"Thou anointest my head with oil;" *-that's consecration.*

"my cup runeth over." *-that's abundance.*

6. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:" *-that's a blessing.*

"and I will dwell in the house of the Lord" *-that's security.*

"for ever." *-that's eternity.*

I hope you enjoyed how she worded the meaning of these verses. God is always there for us. We must look to Him in our good and bad times. We must give Him praise and honor and be faithful to Him as He is faithful to each of us! God will guide and uplift us. We have all the beautiful psalms and scriptures to help us in 'The Holy Bible, 'The Record of the Nephites', and 'The Word of the Lord, Brought to Mankind by an Angel.'

In John 14:6-7, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

7. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him and have seen Him."

John 15:12-17 "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

15. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

16. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it to you.

17. These things I command you, that ye love one another."

Message 119:6, "Thus saith the Lord, 'Ye are my friends...'

John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

How blessed we are to have Jesus as our *friend!* How blessed we are to have JESUS as our *shepherd* to watch over us! How very much Jesus loves us- *as HE DID GIVE HIS LIFE FOR US* -dying on the cross for our sins! Three days later He was resurrected and lives! We must all 'take up the cross' and accept Jesus' love- accept Him as our Lord and Savior. By His grace, He will forgive us of our sins! By belief in Him and striving to serve Him always, we can have eternal life with Him!

Message 67:8, "...Peace and righteousness will be the reward of the faithful. Look to the Lord in all things.,,"

God loves you! God gives His love and care to all of us abundantly! He loves us so much that He gave His only begotten son, Jesus, to die on the cross for ours sins that by believing in Jesus we will not perish but have everlasting life! (See John 3:16) May God bless, guide and protect you as you strive to do His will each day! Have a very Blessed Easter! Remember, Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

Love in Christ,
Sister Thresa Ray

Primary

Ruby Draves

Jesus's Love: Easter

Easter is a very important time for Christians. It represents the time that Jesus died on the cross and then was resurrected 3 days later to return to Heaven. We celebrate it every year to remember the great sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us. It seems strange to honor a holiday that celebrates death, particulay Jesus', who we all know is really God in human form. Why would celebrating His death be such a happy occasion? Well, we are not really celebrating Jesus's death but rather His unwavering and unconditional Love!

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Romans 5:8 tells us that "...God commandeth his love towards us, in that, while we were

yet sinners, Christ died for us."

What does this mean? It means that God loved us so much that he came to earth as Jesus Christ and took the blame for all of the bad things we have done and will do. He took the punishment for us so that we would have the opportunity to do better and be forgiven. By doing so, we will be able to live with Him someday in Heaven.

You must love someone a lot to take their punishment for them, especially one that will result in your own death. What makes Jesus's sacrifice even more special, is that He knew where, how, and when this would happen. And He knew it His entire life. The prophets prophesied that this would happen years before it actually did. And who do you think told them? God did! He even warned the disciples (Matthew 16:21-28, 20:14-19, 26:1.2 & Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-32, 10:32-34). Can you imagine knowing all these things and having so much love for us that He chose to allow it all to happen. Jesus could have stopped all of it; He could have changed the hearts of the unbelievers with a word or a snap of His fingers. But He chose to die so that we could have everlasting life with Him. That is so amazing!

As you celebrate this Easter, remember how much Jesus loves you. Think about what you can do to thank Him for everything He does for you.

Craft: 3 Crosses

Background

When Jesus was crucified, 2 other men were crucified with Him. Both were thieves and were guilty of bad things. One of the men, recognized Jesus for who is really was- God- and asked Him to forgive him for all the bad things he had done. Even on the cross, Jesus showed mercy on this man and forgave him.

Materials

1. Jumbo Craft Sticks x2
2. Regular Craft Sticks x4
3. Playdough
4. Egg Carton
5. Easter Grass
6. Markers
7. Glue

**Instructions**

1. Glue 2 Jumbo Craft Sticks together to make a cross as well as the smaller craft stick to make a 2 additional crosses.
2. On each cross, trim the horizontal stick slightly to make it a bit smaller.
3. Allow the glue to dry.
4. Color with Markers.
5. Cut out 1 or 3 sections (in a row) of an egg carton and fill each section 1/2 full with playdough.
6. Stick your crosses into the playdough.
 - a. 1 section— Place all three crosses in the same section.
 - b. 3 sections— Place 1 cross in each section.
 - c. Either way make sure the largest cross is in the middle.
7. Fill the rest of each section with Easter grass.
8. Optional: before fill the egg carton with playdough, color and decorate the outside.

2025 General Assembly

June 22-24, 2025

Location:

Independence Headquarters
14500 East 42nd Street South, Suite 240
Independence, Missouri 64055

Tentative Schedule**Sunday, June 22, 2025**

- 2:00 p.m. Opening Assembly Service
3:30 p.m. Sacrament, Prayer & Testimony
7:00 p.m. Preaching Service

Monday, June 23, 2025

- 10:30 a.m. Priesthood Meeting
1:00 p.m. Preaching Service
2:00 p.m. Membership Meeting
3:00 p.m. Prayer & Testimony
7:00 p.m. Preaching Service

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

- 10:30 a.m. Priesthood Meeting
1:00 p.m. Study
2:00 p.m. Preaching Service
3:00 p.m. Closing Service & Sacrament

Handmaidens of the Lord*

10:00 a.m. Monday & Tuesday

Children's Classes*

1:00 p.m. Monday & Tuesday

* Both located in classrooms across the hall.

***“But behold, the resurrection of Christ
redeemeth mankind, yea, even all
mankind, and bringeth them back into
the presence of the Lord;”***

- Helaman 14:17