

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

APRIL 5, 2026
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SERMON OUTLINE

PEACE FROM THE RISEN CHRIST

JOHN 20:19-27 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of Christian faith and the source of true peace from the risen Christ for the human heart. Many people live with fear, uncertainty, and doubt. John 20 shows that the risen Christ enters those troubled realities and gives peace that transforms fearful, troubled, and doubting hearts.

On the evening of the resurrection day the disciples gathered behind locked doors because they feared the Jewish authorities who had crucified Jesus. Their Master had been executed, and they believed they might suffer the same fate. Into that fearful setting Jesus suddenly appeared among them and greeted them with the words, "Peace be with you." Rather than rebuking them for their weakness, He reassured them of His presence and victory. Jesus then showed them His hands and His side,

confirming that the crucified Savior now stood alive before them. When the disciples recognized the risen Lord, their fear was replaced with joy. (John 20:19-20)

Jesus again declared, "Peace be with you," and connected that peace with the mission He entrusted to His followers. As the Father had sent Him into the world, He now sent the disciples to continue proclaiming the message of salvation. Though they were uncertain about the future, Jesus assured them that they were part of God's redemptive plan and pointed them to the empowering work of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:21-23)

Thomas was not present when Jesus first appeared, and he refused to believe the testimony of the other disciples. He insisted that he would not believe unless he could see and touch the wounds

of Jesus himself. Eight days later Jesus appeared again and invited Thomas to examine His hands and His side, calling him to move from unbelief to faith. (John 20:24-27)

The resurrection demonstrates that sin and death have been defeated and that the crucified Savior now reigns as the living Lord. Because Christ is alive, those who believe in Him receive peace from Him and can live with confidence in His redemptive plan (1 Corinthians 15:54-57; Romans 5:1).

The purpose of this message is to call people to respond to the risen Christ by believing in Him and receiving the peace that comes from Him. Because Jesus rose from the dead, fearful hearts can find courage, troubled hearts can find comfort, and doubting hearts can find confidence in the living Savior. ✱

RESURRECTION SUNDAY: UNSHAKABLE BECAUSE CHRIST LIVES

REV. LITO VILLORIA

PARSON TO PERSON

In a world marked by instability, uncertainty, and shifting foundations, we were reminded during IDMC Manila 2026, "Unshakable: Empowered in Warfare, Weakness, and Witness" that to remain unshakable, we must learn to boast in the Lord. To boast in the Lord is not pride—it is full and complete confidence in Christ and Christ alone. It is the settled conviction that He is with us, He is at work, and He is faithful in every season.

This truth is the anchor of our soul. It strengthens our faith. It keeps us from being shaken by circumstances, stifled by trials, or silenced in our witness.

Our prayer is that the 440+ attendees representing 35 churches would be used by God in this present season—not only to stand firm, but also to direct others to Christ. In a time when many are searching for stability, may we point them to the only One who is unchanging, so that they, too, may become unshakable—not because of their strength, but because of their Savior.

And this brings us to the heart of our faith—the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection is not merely a historical event. It is the foundation, the anchor, and the assurance of everything we believe. The most powerful truth in our faith is the resurrection of Jesus. The Apostle Paul wrote, "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain..."¹⁷

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:14,17)

In light of this truth, the resurrection shapes every aspect of our lives. It defines our confidence, our identity, our mission, and our response. Consider these four implications of the resurrection in our daily walk with Christ.

First, the resurrection declares Christ as the Victor. Death has been defeated. Sin has been conquered. The grave could not hold Him. As Paul wrote, "Death is swallowed up in victory... thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:54-57). Because He lives, we are no longer bound by fear, guilt, or condemnation. We stand in victory—not by our effort, but by His finished work.

Second, the resurrection defines our identity. We are not merely forgiven—we are transformed. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is now at work in us. This is why our witness matters. The most powerful tool in proclaiming Christ is a life continually shaped by Him. When people see transformation in us, they see evidence of a living Savior. (Romans 8:11)

Third, the resurrection directs our mission for Christ. Because Jesus lives, we are sent. In Acts 5, the apostles stood firm despite opposition because they knew one unshakable truth: Jesus is alive (vv. 29-32).

That truth gave them courage in warfare, strength in weakness, and boldness in witness. And that same calling is now ours.

Even in Luke 24:13-35, the discouraged disciples on the road to Emmaus moved from confusion to conviction when the risen Christ revealed Himself to them. Their eyes were opened, their hearts burned, and they returned with urgency to declare that the Lord has risen indeed. An encounter with the risen Christ always leads to a renewed witness.

Finally, the resurrection demands a faithful response. Paul concludes that because of the resurrection, we are to be "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58). This is what it means to be unshakable—not that we are untouched by trials, but that we remain anchored in Christ through them.

So today, on Resurrection Sunday, we do not merely celebrate an empty tomb—we declare a living King.

We boast in the Lord. We rest in His finished work. We stand in His victory. And we go in His power.

May God use each one of us to lead others to Christ in this unstable season. And as we do, may many come to know Him, trust Him, and stand firm in Him.

Because Christ lives—we can be unshakable. ✱

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