

Friends of the Chapel Weekly Scripture Study

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

New Testament Reading

Acts 10:34–43

English Standard Version Scripture Text

³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Historical Context

Acts 10 records Peter’s encounter with Cornelius, a Gentile centurion. This moment marks a major turning point in the early Church as the gospel is explicitly extended beyond the Jewish people to the Gentiles.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verse 34–35 – Peter recognizes that God shows no partiality but accepts those who fear Him.

Verses 36–38 – Jesus is proclaimed as Lord of all, anointed with the Holy Spirit and power.

Verses 39–41 – The apostles testify to Jesus’ death and resurrection as eyewitnesses.

Verse 42 – Christ is appointed as judge of the living and the dead.

Verse 43 – All who believe in Him receive forgiveness of sins through His name.

Theological Themes

- The universality of the gospel
- The resurrection as central proclamation
- Forgiveness through Christ
- God's impartial grace

Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:1–4

English Standard Bible Scripture Text

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Historical Context

Paul writes to the Colossian church to affirm the supremacy of Christ and to encourage believers to live in light of their union with Him. Having been raised with Christ, they are called to seek heavenly realities rather than earthly distractions.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verse 1 – Believers are raised with Christ and called to seek things above.

Verse 2 – The mind is to be set on heavenly, not earthly, realities.

Verse 3 – The believer's life is hidden with Christ in God.

Verse 4 – Christ's return will reveal the believer's true identity in glory.

Theological Themes

- Union with Christ
- New life through the resurrection
- Heavenly orientation of the believer
- Future glory

Concluding Reflection

Easter proclaims not only that Christ is risen, but that His resurrection transforms all who believe. Peter declares that the good news is for all people, while Paul reminds believers that their lives are now hidden with Christ. The resurrection calls the Church to live with a new identity, grounded in hope and oriented toward eternity.

Thoughts to Consider

1. Peter realizes that God shows no partiality. How does this shape our understanding of who the gospel is for?
2. Why is the resurrection such a central part of Peter's message?
3. What does it mean that believers are 'raised with Christ'?
4. How can we practically 'set our minds on things above' in daily life?
5. How does the promise of future glory shape how we live today?