

The Hunger Church  
At- Home Devotional  
March 25, 2020

“I am the resurrection and the life.”  
John 11:25a

Scripture Selections:

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

John 11: 1-45

Stay at home. Self- quarantine. Isolation. Social distancing. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic this is the best thing to do to protect yourself and others in an effort to slow the spread of coronavirus. In times like these we need a word of hope... a word of promise... a word of comfort. Mary and Martha needed hope, comfort, and promise after the death of their brother Lazarus. In the midst of their concern during his illness they sent for Jesus to come. Although Jesus did not come immediately, Jesus did come. Both sisters greeted Jesus with the same words, “Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” (John 11: 21,32)

Grief, sorrow, fear bring out our doubts. “Lord if you had been here...” is really just our way of saying “Lord don’t you care?” When we cry out in our fear and doubt Jesus offers us words of assurance. These are the same words he offered to Martha in her grief.

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11: 23)

Jesus promises hope in resurrection but also says this abundant eternal life is available right here- right now in this life too! Eternal life right here- right now is expressed in our care of one another. Eternal life right here-right now is expressed in our service to others... in our prayers. Eternal life right here-right now calls us to focus not on the fear... the unknown but rather on the known. As people of faith, what do we know? What truth can we stand on in the midst of our doubt?

We stand on the hope found in the words from the Apostle Paul,

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8: 38-39)

Do you believe this?

Prayer:

*Almighty God, help me to see today the mighty power of your love for me. In the midst of my fear and doubt, abide with me as I abide with you. Right here-right now I surrender my fear to your love. With confidence in your love and care for me, I pray for the protection and healing of all people suffering as a result of coronavirus. Grant peace and comfort to those who are mourning the loss of loved ones. Provide strength and courage to those who care for the sick and the dying. Thank you for your love. Thank you for your Son, my Savior, Jesus. In his name I pray. Amen.*

Questions to Ponder:

- In the midst of worry- do you find yourself saying, “Lord don’t you care?” What can you do to release the uncertainty of that question and trust fully on God’s provision?
- What scripture verse(s) or story offers you assurance of God’s loving care for you?