A picture containing indoor, sitting, laying, table

Description automatically generatedA close up of a large rock

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Resurrection of the Lord

April 12, 2020

Worldwide Pandemic

Lexington, KY, USA

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The stone, despite soldiers standing guard, was lifted and rolled aside, revealing Jesus, breathing and alive! Death is nothing to fear for anyone who believes. Nothing – not even death -- can separate us from God’s love.

God’s good news spread from Jerusalem to Caesarea at the request of Cornelius, a centurion with the invading Romans’ military, who was “God-fearing.”

A group of people sitting in the grass

Description automatically generatedHere’s the testimony, in Acts 10:34-43.Then Peter began to speak to [Cornelius, gathered with his relatives and close friends]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ-- he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

A vase with a purple flower

Description automatically generated A number of Jesus’ disciples had been “…chosen by God as witnesses” to God’s powerful defeat of death. They stood beside the risen Christ, weeping, hearing him call out their names. Touched their fingers to ragged holes on his wrist and piercing his abdomen. Sat with him on the sea-side’s shoreline as he laid their fish on a charcoal fire and fed them breakfast.

To witness means testifying -- part of court procedure, presenting evidence to arrive at the truth of what happened.

“What is truth?” the invading Romans’ governor, Pontius Pilate, had said, as he turned away from Jesus, standing with his hands bound as a prisoner. After [Pilate] had said this, he went out to the [Judeans’ religious leaders] again and told them, “I find no case against him (John 18:38).”

And yet, Pilate had crucified Jesus, a man he considered innocent. Jesus’ disciple named Paul thought, later, about God’s choice to include outsiders like Cornelius and his family among those saved for eternity. Paul wrote about it in Romans 9:14-16. What then are we to say? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” So it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who shows mercy.

“God shows no partiality… in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.” Fear God and do what is right. And what does God consider “right?” First of all, when a person believes. “…Righteousness is through faith (Romans 9:30).”

What does it take? Believe. Today can be the day you, too, side with the living God.