
Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.
- At the 11 a.m. worship service, there will be a Children's Musical

Presentation to begin the service. The first song is on a track which will play when you advance to that slide in Proclaim. Check with Chelle and / or Bobby Edwards about timing.



Text highlighted in this way will have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way is a reminder for Andrew during delivery.

Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about the resurrection of the body.

Why is this sermon important?

It is important because we don't often consider our belief in the resurrection of the body and how it might shape our lives today.

What is the good news?

This is the good news: Death has been swallowed up by a victory.

What are the next action steps?

Make some of your essential beliefs the truth of the gospel.

What is the context of this sermon?

This sermon is part of a series focused on the Apostles' Creed. It is based on the book *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton and a series of sermons preached at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in 2015 - <http://cor.org/leawood/sermon-series/searching-for-truth>

Metadata

Topics

- Change Lives
- Grow

Sermon Books of the Bible

- 1 Corinthians
- Luke
- John

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, Lent, 40Days, Believe, ApostlesCreed, body, resurrection, death, life, eternallife

Sermon Audio

9 a.m. Worship

11 a.m. Worship

Sermon Video



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5th Sunday in Lent (Purple)
Believe - Exploring the Apostles' Creed
The Resurrection of the Body
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

April 2, 2017
1 Corinthians 15:51, 53-55, 57
Preaching Target Word Count: 2,197

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Introduction

1 Corinthians 15:51, 53-55, 57, NRSV

⁵¹"Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed,"¹
⁵³"For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"²

⁵⁷"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."³

Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.



¹ 1 Corinthians 15:51, NRSV

² 1 Corinthians 15:53-55, NRSV

³ 1 Corinthians 15:57, NRSV

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

Care for the Dead

Rituals at Death

Throughout history, for thousands of years, societies, tribes and peoples have buried their dead with care. There are rituals and practices at the death of a loved one for families and communities to gather, celebrate, and remember.

The way that we care for the physical bodies of those who have died says something about what we believe about life and what happens when we die.

Purposes of A Service of Death and Resurrection

Every time we have a service of death and resurrection – a funeral, a celebration of life, a tribute – here at the church, I remind the family and congregation that our purpose is to do three things:

1. Glorify God, remember our faith and God's promises.
2. Celebrate life and remember its meaning, significance and impact on others.
3. Offer comfort to family and friends, as well as all who gather.

.....
Pause
.....

Believe Worship Series

During this series we have been taking a closer look at essential Christian beliefs and the words of the Apostles' Creed. The Apostles' Creed is an ancient Christian statement of faith whose words or ideas come from the scriptures.

Today's Phrase of the Apostles' Creed

Today, we come to the end of the creed:

I believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

Next week, as we celebrate Easter, we will focus on life everlasting.

Transition

Today, we consider the phrase:

I believe in the resurrection of the body.

.....
Pause
.....

Bodies and Burial

Puzzling Phrase

As Christians, we have a picture of everlasting life that is beautiful and powerful and meant to influence the way we live our everyday lives. We will talk more about that next week.

You may have the idea of our souls receiving a new body in the afterlife, but the Apostles' Creed says the resurrection of the body. It seems to be talking about *this body*.

Gesture toward body

Some might find this a bit odd.
How does that work exactly?

Reconstitute?

Does this mean that God is going to take our bodies and reconstitute them?
What about cremation?
Would cremation be a problem if we believe in the resurrection of the body?
What does happen to our bodies when we die?

Pause

Body Decomposition

Research

There is actually quite a bit of research about what happens to your body when you die. This is helpful in crime scene investigation, for example.

Embalming

The modern art and science of embalming preserves human remains to keep them suitable for public display at a funeral or for medical and scientific purposes.⁴

Decomposition and Recycling

Ultimately, like all living creatures, our bodies will decompose. Shortly after death, our physical bodies begin to change into something else. The energy in our body is converted to another form of energy, which ultimately feeds plant life, which in turn is eaten by other animals, which, at their death, is converted again.

This is how life on our planet works.

⁴ Wikipedia contributors, "Embalming," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Embalming&oldid=770113157> (accessed April 7, 2017).

Pause

Burial Practices in Jesus' Day

In the time of Jesus, people who were being prepared for burial would be washed, anointed with perfumed ointment and then wrapped in cloth before being placed in a tomb.

Tomb

The tomb would be sealed, however it was not air tight. In these tombs, the body would decompose. Most people could not afford new tombs for everyone in the family, so when the tomb was needed again, they would clean the bones and place them in a bone box called an ossuary.

Ossuary

Here is an example of an ossuary from the first century.

Show Photo

These were designed to be the length of your longest bone. Then, the tomb was able to be reused for someone else.

Certainty of Decomposition

There was no question that our earthly body is going to decompose and disappear. Even if you bury bones in particular soils, they will completely decompose.

People were not expecting to be resurrected from the grave.



Pause

This Life and the Next

Then, there are some of the practical questions about our physical bodies and belief in the resurrection of the body.

Body has Challenges

You know, I'm really grateful for this body but it has its problems.
I am not sure if I will want this body in the next life.

Hair

While I know it is inevitable, right now, I think there is too much grey and white hair. I'm not sure that I want hair like this when I'm resurrected.

Weight

I am tired of trying of the struggle to lose weight.
Lose some, gain some. Lose some, gain some. Anybody else?

Desire for the Resurrection Body

At the resurrection, I would just as soon be done with this body and to have the new one that Paul was talking about.

Age in Heaven

Anyway, what age are you going to be when you get to heaven?
If it's this body, which age?
Have you ever wondered that?
What age are people when they die?

Resurrection Body

Do you think that we will be the age that we die? I imagine that if it's up to most people, they want to be in their 20s or 30s right?

How will I even recognize my grandparents who I, of course, didn't know when they were in their 20s?

Silly Questions

All these are silly questions but they're not really, are they?

Pause

Continuity between this life and the next

I believe that the resurrection of the body means that there is a continuity between life in this world and life in the next. I believe that we will actually have some kind of body, that somehow will be recognizable to the people around you.

God's Knowledge of Us

If God needs any part of this earthly body to configure the new body, I'm pretty sure God has that figured out. The body that makes up who you are is composed of millions of lines of DNA and is quite complicated, yet God knows you already.

God has you stored in memory. He's not going to need some fragment of a bone. God is able to reconstitute from memory of who we are, our new body.

Family Recognition

Our family will recognize us, not because we look the same as we looked on earth, but by some other way. They'll look at us and go, "Grandma. Grandpa, it's you."

Transition

There's a continuity.

There's a physical body and there's a resurrection body but they're different from each other.

Pause

Jesus' Resurrection Body

What does that new body look like? Consider Jesus.

Empty Tomb

When he was resurrected from the grave, his body actually came out of the tomb. This was important because there would be an empty tomb that would be ongoing evidence that he had died and now was no longer there.

Transformation of Jesus' Body

Key Scripture - John 20:13-15

Jesus was resurrected and his body was transformed in some way by God. We know this because Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' close friends, was the first to see Jesus after the resurrection.

She didn't recognize him. Hear these words from John 20:

"The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him."

As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."⁵

She thought he was the gardener.

It wasn't until he spoke that she recognized it was Jesus.

Key Scripture - Luke 24:30-31

Then, there was the stranger who was walking on the road to Emmaus with two of Jesus' disciples. They were having an amazing conversation, yet they didn't recognize that it was Jesus. Only when they join in the evening meal do we hear these words from Luke 24:

"After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight."⁶

The same formula for Holy Communion.

In the breaking of the bread, they recognized Jesus.

⁵ John 20:13-15, CEB.

⁶ Luke 24:30-31, CEB.

Not a Ghost

At the same time, he's not a ghost. He eats food with his disciples, but he also can show up behind locked doors. He can appear somewhere and doesn't have the key to walk through the door.

Physical and Not

Our resurrection bodies may be physical when they need to be physical and at other times they can simply appear where they need to appear. We may be able to appear and take forms in different ways.

Feel, Touch, Taste

A body that will be able to feel and touch and taste.

Jesus Ate and Wedding Banquet

I love the fact that Jesus ate after he was resurrected from the grave.

As described so many times in the scriptures, heaven is like a wedding banquet. All your family and friends are there and it is an incredible day, except the party doesn't end that night. It goes on forever.

This is what we look to with the resurrection of the body.

Pause

Conclusion

Example: Caterpillar and Butterfly

Christians in the early church used the idea of the caterpillar and the butterfly. You see that in this image:

[Show Image]



Caterpillars Prepare

Caterpillars eat and eat and eat. They aren't just hungry, they are getting ready for something else. They aren't going to be a caterpillar forever. It is preparing for something more.

Cocoon

Then, they seem to die, wrapped in a cocoon. So, Christians thought about this as our own death.

Butterfly Emerges

Then out of the common comes a beautiful creature, more majestic than anyone ever imagined could come from that little caterpillar. This butterfly can soar and fly - things the caterpillar couldn't have imagined.

Our Bodies

Of course, the metaphor breaks down at various points, yet it captures something really beautiful about what Paul's saying about our body what happens to us when we die.

Key Scripture - 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 54

Paul writes this in 1 Corinthians:

"It's the same with the resurrection of the dead:
a rotting body is put into the ground, but what is raised won't ever decay.
It's degraded when it's put into the ground, but it's raised in glory.
It's weak when it's put into the ground, but it's raised in power.
It's a physical body when it's put into the ground, but it's raised as a spiritual
body.

If there's a physical body, there's also a spiritual body."⁷

...

"And when the rotting body has been clothed in what can't decay, and the dying body has been clothed in what can't die, then this statement in scripture will happen: Death has been swallowed up by a victory."⁸

Good News

This is the good news: Death has been swallowed up by a victory.
Death has been vanquished.
It was vanquished in Jesus' death on the cross.
It's vanquished in our own death when we're raised up with Christ to that place where there's no more sorrow, suffering or pain.

Call to Action

Our beliefs change how we live our lives...

⁷ 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, CEB.

⁸ 1 Corinthians 15:54, CEB.

how we understand the purpose of our lives...
how we face adversity and joy.
I invite you to make some of your essential beliefs the truth of the gospel.

I believe in the resurrection of the body.

Invitation

Will you please stand, as you are able, and say the Apostles' Creed with me?

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in
God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ
his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead,
and buried;

the third day he rose
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the
right hand of
God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and
the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.