

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### SERMON OUTLINE -- APRIL 24, 2022

# From FEAR to JOY to FAITH to WITNESS

*(John 20:19-31)*

INTRODUCTION: *“The (in)famous Sunday after Easter...”*

## I. THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF AN **EASTER JOY** IN CONNECTION WITH JESUS’ CRUCIFIXION

- A. In all of the resurrection accounts, there is a similar pattern
- B. **Fear** (and sorrow due to Jesus’ death)...  
**Joy** (when meeting the risen Jesus)...  
**Faith** (a confession of who Jesus really is)...  
**Witness** (the person is asked by Jesus to “spread the news!”)
- C. This is true of today’s Gospel account in **John 20:19-31** with Thomas & the other disciples, with a curious difference . . .

## II. WHEN THOMAS & THE OTHER DISCIPLES SAW JESUS’ CRUCIFIXION WOUNDS, THEY HAD AN **EASTER JOY**

- A. We might expect Jesus’ crucifixion wounds would bring them shame or bitter memories
- B. But St. John tells us they had an **Easter joy**
- C. This is because Jesus’ crucifixion wounds showed His love for them
- D. Martin Luther’s exclamation at the foot of a large crucifix: *“For me! For me!”*
- E. This is also the testimony of many Bible texts: **1 Corinthians 1:23-25; 2:2**
- F. **How about you** as you stand on Mt. Calvary . . .

CONCLUSION: *The hymn writer Charles Wesley’s **Easter joy** in his great hymn:*

***“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”***