



ON THE THIRD DAY

**On the third day He rose again.
He ascended into heaven.**

**He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

Jesus' resurrection and ascension is critical to our understanding of God's plan to restore His people back to Himself. Some stop the Gospel at the crucifixion, other at the resurrection. However, the significance of Jesus' ascension should never be overlooked. This was always a key part of the plan.

Jesus' ascension marked the end of His earthly ministry. His return to heavenly glory and it ushered in a new age with Jesus as High Priest.

"God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins." (Acts 5:31 ESV)

Jesus went to prepare a place for us and in doing so paved the way to pour out His Spirit on the church.

"Unless I go away the Advocate will not come to you but if I go, I will send him to you." (John 16:7b NIV)

When addressing the crowd after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter proclaims :

"Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing." (Acts 2:23 ESV)

It is also a foreshadowing of Jesus' return. Directly after Jesus' ascension into heaven,

".....two men dressed in white, stood beside (the crowd). 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'" (Acts 1: 10b 11 NIV)

What does this mean for us today? Among many other things, it means Jesus is on the throne, we have His Spirit to guide us in all things, and He is coming back again.

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Services – Sunday 9 April, 2023

Easter

9.30am Five Dock

Preacher: Rev Wattson Pualilo

Reading: John 20: 1-18

Theme: "The unexpected happened"

We are glad to have you with us today in worship.

It is our hope that you will not only learn more about God, but that you will encounter Him and experience His presence, love and grace for you.



An Easter Prayer

Creator God and Lord of Life, You who call forth from the darkness of death all those who love You, we rejoice on this Easter Sunday, in the resurrection from the dead of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Visit our homes with Your bright blessing of peace and life.



DIARY DATES

Monday Afternoon Lenten Bible Study

will not meet on Monday 10 April but will resume on **Monday April 17.**

Saturday 29 April 10.30 to 12 noon

Planning Session followed by a barbecue lunch. The Congregation has asked for a time to discuss / decide / plan the future of our Church and future ministry. We will work in small groups, ideas noted, then discussed in a final joint planning session.

Minutes of Congregation meeting

held on 26 March are on the Notice Board for your perusal.