

Sermon Title: **“Joy of the Resurrection”**

Bible: **Luke 24:1-12 & 1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

When: on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

Where: about 35 people (plus YouTube Live viewers) at Gilroy UMC

Opening Prayer

O Lord, let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock, and our Redeemer. Amen.

1. Easter Sunday

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! We celebrate Easter Sunday in many ways: Easter Egg Hunts, Dyeing Eggs, Easter Bunnies, Easter Sunrise Services, Special Songs, and anything else? I think that Easter Sunday is the most important one to Christians, thanks to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The reason why we gather on this Easter Sunday and every Sunday is that Jesus Christ is risen on Sunday. If there is no resurrection, Christians might be the most pitiful people, as the apostle Paul mentioned. But it is not always easy to believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Even the eleven apostles could not believe in the resurrection at first, as we read the Gospel of Luke.

2. The Darkness Cannot Conquer the Light!

I believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, because the darkness cannot conquer the light! Have you felt lost in any darkness in your life? Actually, have you experienced the darkness in your life? I have experienced the darkness in my life. Even if my outside self looked okay, my inside self had a lot of problems, doubts, questions, confusion, and chaos. And I thought that there was no one who cared about me. It was total darkness. But in that total darkness, somehow I saw the light. It was like discovering the stars in the night. In the night, there is darkness, but what we see is not the darkness, but the light of the stars. I know that

sometimes we do not want to see the light, because it is too bright for our eyes. Sometimes, we assume that there is no light, because we cannot see the light directly. But even in the darkness, it is possible to see the light. Unfortunately, seeing the light did not change my problems, doubts, questions, confusion, and chaos. But thankfully, seeing the light changed myself and my perspectives on how to look at it all. The same problems were there, but what I saw were not the limitations, but the potential. The darkness is still there, and I am still afraid of the darkness, but I can take a small but brave step into the light. The darkness cannot conquer the light at all.

3. His Victory, My Victory, Your Victory, and Our Victory

I also believe in our resurrection, because Jesus' resurrection is our resurrection. Jesus' victory over darkness and death is my victory, your victory, and our victory, because the risen Christ is in you and me. The risen Christ already loved you and decided to live with you and in you. Then, the darkness loses its power under the light. Death loses its sting against life. Today, we will have communion. When we receive the bread and share the cup, let us remember the risen and living Christ who is in us. Let us rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and let us rejoice in our resurrection in this life, and in the life to come!

Amen!

Closing Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, thank you so much for your resurrection. And thank you so much for your light in our lives, and your victory of life over death. You are the reason for our life and our joy! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.