

## **Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

Tim and John both wrote about Psalm 118 this week—but each in his own unique way. Psalm 118 is the Easter Sunday, resurrection, Jesus-has-kicked-Satan’s-butt psalm of victory. Tim points us to how this Psalm of resurrection and demonic butt-kicking is an expression of our joy at being born again when Jesus was born again of the virgin tomb. And John helps us see how our fallen, sinful theology would sound if we had written Psalm 118 in our blindness instead of the Holy Spirit writing it. Both perspectives point us to the same reality: Easter calls us to repentance. Seeing Jesus, fully God and fully man, risen, glorified, and triumphant over death means that we must rethink everything we thought we knew about what it means to be human.

St. Paul calls us to this kind of mind-blowing new perspective in Colossians 3:1 when he tells us to “set our hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.” (In fact, Christ is the right hand of God - see Psalm 118:15-16.) Why should we repent, change our minds, and focus on Christ instead of all of our desires and suffering? Because we have died with Christ (v.3) and risen with Christ (v.1) and when he comes we will share in his glory (v.4.) In my two churches we recite these words every Sunday during communion. I say “this table proclaims the mystery of our faith,” and then we all respond together “We died with Christ, we rose with Christ, when he comes we will share in his glory.”

We say it every Sunday because it is the gospel. It is the good news. It is the Truth of who Jesus is and we need to say it over and over again until we are home with the Father. Our flesh says “maybe” and “if” and “you need to do your part.” But with our lips we confess, and in our hearts we believe, the gospel of Jesus Christ: humanity has been raised into the life of the Trinity through his resurrection.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! And we are risen with him!

*~ Jonathan Stepp*