



## Easter Sunday: The Cup that Never Runs Dry | John 20:1-18

### Call to Worship:

**Praise the Lord! Christ is risen! Praise the Lord!**

Jesus is risen indeed! Praise the Lord! While it was still dark, God got up!

**While it was still dark, the women ran to tell the good news.**

While it was still dark, Jesus rose, giving the whole world new life.

**God does the best work in the dark! Jesus came, died, and rose in the midst of our sin, shame, hopelessness, and despair. Yes, God does the best work in the dark!**

**Praise the Lord! Christ is risen! Praise the Lord!**

**Unison Prayer:** Risen Lord, we worship you today with thanks that you meet us in the dark and shine your light brightly into our lives. Thank you for your incredible gift of forgiveness and eternal life that we celebrate today. We invite you to pour into the parts of our lives where we most need your grace, and we receive the living water that you are and that you give so freely. Amen.

**Offering Introduction:** Jesus is the fountain of grace who gives us living water – all that we need to live abundant lives. And he moves us to become a part of that fountain, giving of ourselves so that others can know his grace through us and our lives. Give today as joyful recipients of God's grace!

**Offertory Prayer:** Living God, we stand in awe of you today – giver of all that we have and all that we are. Accept and bless our offerings so that, through us, your cup of blessing may overflow into our community and the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Music Suggestions (Traditional):

UMH #310: He Lives / MVPC #199: Al Cristo Vivo Sirvo

UMH #370 – Victory in Jesus

UMH #374 – Standing on the Promises

W&S #3101 – Love Lifted Me

### Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

Living Hope by Phil Wickham – CCLI #7106807

Mi Esperanza, Trad by Iglesia Celebration ([Living Hope Spanish](#))

Graves into Gardens – CCLI #7138219

\*God So Loved – CCLI 7138599

Hymn of Heaven – CCLI 7168994



**Preaching Resources | Additional Components:**

**Prayer of Confession:**

**God who makes all things new,  
Sometimes we feel dry, run down, worn out.  
Sometimes we try to do it all or fix it all or be it all.**

**You see us.**

**You know us.**

**You love us**

**so much that you took it all on and lost it all**

**so that together, we might gain all**

**and be renewed in your presence**

**with a cup so full of blessing**

**that it never empties**

**and never runs dry.**

**Forgive us, quench us, make us whole, all in the name of Jesus. Amen.**



## Easter Sunday Preaching Resources: The Cup that Never Runs Dry

**Scripture Passage:** John 20:1-18

**Focus Statement:** Jesus is alive! That means God's grace will never run dry.

**ME:** Tell about an area in your life where you have needed grace over and over again and it has shown up in different ways at different times. Or, how you have needed grace in different areas of your life at different times, but you never stop needing it somewhere. Give some examples of how grace has shown up in different ways at different times.

**WE:** As human beings, we are all in need of God's grace, all the time. (You may consider talking about how recent issues in the world and your community have highlighted our ongoing need for grace). The amazing news that we celebrate on Easter Sunday is that God's grace never runs out. Jesus has overcome death, sin, and evil in his resurrection and in doing so, Jesus *is* the fountain of grace that we can return to again and again when we are thirsty.

**GOD:** The Easter story is at the center of the Christian faith and, for good reason, is often preached in the joy of its simplicity and wonder! You may feel led to preach it in a certain way. You are encouraged to preach the gospel this Easter with faithfulness to the Holy Spirit's leading and attentiveness to your congregation's needs and situation. These notes are some different suggestions for tying the Easter message in with the rest of this Lenten series.

In the gospel according to John, we follow three of Jesus' disciples (Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, and "the other disciple, whom Jesus loved") to the empty tomb. Each disciple's experience of the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection is different.

Mary goes to the tomb alone while it is still dark. Her first instinct is to run and tell Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Simon Peter and the beloved disciple go to the tomb because Mary has told them Jesus' body is missing. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not go in. Simon Peter arrives second but does go into the tomb. The beloved disciple follows Simon Peter. At this point, both "see and believe," but Mary has not yet entered. Verses 11-16 describe what it takes for Mary to understand what has happened here – that Jesus is alive.

For each of these disciples, God meets them where they are and shows them that Jesus is alive in ways that will speak to *them*. This extends even to the following verses (19-29) where Jesus shows up when the disciples are locked away and then again, later, willing to show Thomas his wounds as evidence that he is who he says he is. Jesus is persistent with the disciples and Jesus is persistent with us in showing up. In that way, Jesus is a cup that never runs dry. Jesus' resurrection, the news of grace for all of us, is signaled and announced in different ways at different moments - in the empty tomb, the linen wrappings, being told by friends, seeing angels, Jesus calling by name and so on. Just as in the passage, the living Jesus shows up for us in different ways at different moments. You may point back to some of the different



“moments of grace” throughout the series (e.g., God using broken vessels, woman at the well being seen and known by Jesus, providing/receiving basic needs to/from others) or different moments of grace from your introductory story.

When Jesus calls Mary by name, she finally recognizes him as her beloved “Rabbouni!” Immediately, Jesus tells Mary not to hold onto him because he has not yet ascended to the Father. He also sends her to spread the good news to the other disciples. Like a flowing river or fountain, Jesus is alive and on the move – not an object to be possessed (held onto) or simply a doctrine to be believed. Just as water flows, Jesus, our living water, moves and moves *us* with him! The response Jesus asks of Mary is to get moving and spread the good news.

Consider describing the eternal gift that Jesus has given us on Easter with his resurrection from the dead (forgiveness, reconciliation with God and each other, new life, eternal life). Describe how we always need this grace and how, by Jesus’ death and resurrection, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, it is always available to us.

**YOU:** You may consider doing an altar call or other invitation to profession of faith, discipleship. Invite people to come and “have their cup filled.” You can get creative with what this means and looks like. Invite people to think about what area of their life is in need of particular grace at this time and encourage them to be attentive to the signs of that grace that may be showing up. And/or, invite people to consider how Jesus is calling them to be givers of grace in others’ lives. You may provide some concrete examples.

**WE:** Describe or ask how your congregation is currently being called to move with Jesus, like living water, into our communities. What would it look like if we all gave each other grace instead of harboring resentments and sowing division? What does it look like for your congregation to be like Mary and to really go out into the world to share the good news of Jesus’ resurrection and the gift of forgiveness and eternal life?