



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message.
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March 25-31, 2024

EASTER SUNDAY

Sermon Title: "There is Always Hope" by Rev. Dr. Pete Moon

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals,
make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

Questions for small groups and individual reflections:

1. Imagine what the church and even the world would look like if there was no resurrection of Jesus. What would your life be like if that was the case and where would you find hope?
2. Would you agree that our culture has some struggles with speaking about death? How comfortable are you in speaking about it?
3. We have hope because Jesus is alive. As the sermon states, that doesn't mean he is in a faraway galaxy, but instead even closer than we think. Reflect upon or share a time when you felt the presence of Jesus with you.
4. On Easter Sunday, we will take or have taken communion together. This is a place where we believe the risen Jesus is present. Reflect upon or share an experience when a particular time of communion was moving to you.

Monday, March 25: Read Mark 16:1-8

Our Holy Week readings begin at an all-time low: Jesus has been tortured and murdered, his followers are in hiding as well as in mourning, and three brave and faithful women have the heartbreaking and gruesome task of anointing his broken dead body. We may have never experienced a "low" quite like this, but many of us may be in a place of heartbreak, fear, anxiety, or hopelessness right now. This week's journey first to the cross, then to the empty tomb will highlight two reasons why we always have hope: Jesus is alive, and we are assured of life after death. This is the hope Easter gives us, now and forever.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Sunday's sermon will make the claim that we in many ways have lost our hope as a culture and as a nation. Discuss whether you agree or disagree. Why or why not?*

Tuesday, March 26: Read Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

"I will not die, but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done." This statement from verse 17 in today's psalm perfectly sums up not only the hope we have, but the purpose we have every day of our lives. No matter what is going on in the world and in our lives, we can wake up every day knowing we will not die but live, and we can proclaim this hope to a world that so desperately needs it. No matter what our work situation is, we can give people hope and purpose. No matter what our health situation is, we can have hope and purpose. The promise of Easter allows us to enjoy life every day, transcending all circumstances. In the words of the more famous verse 24 from today's psalm, we can live every day saying, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *A natural response to hopelessness is cynicism. How can you surround yourself with sentiments like today's psalm when you feel cynicism knocking at your door?*

Wednesday, March 27: Read Acts 10:34-43

When we get disheartened about the state of Christianity today or the problems within our own religion, let us return to today's fundamental words from Peter in the book of Acts. These words bring us back to what we truly believe and are really celebrating this week: A God who, unlike us, does not show favoritism and welcomes everyone. We celebrate the everlasting Good News of a loving savior whose life, death, and resurrection offers us eternal life and salvation, starting right now and lasting through eternity. We are all offered forgiveness for all our sins. We therefore have nothing to fear about our past and nothing to fear about our future. This is the very definition of hope.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Spend time today offering up all your sins and worries to God. Lay down your burdens and pick up the incredible peace offered to you...right now.*

Thursday, March 28: HOLY THURSDAY: Read John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Today we enter what is called in Latin the Holy "Triduum" – the three days comprising Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. We urge you to slow down, dig into the longer scriptures, and participate in the opportunities to worship each day, beginning with our Holy Thursday service and meal tonight beginning at 6:00 pm. Today we focus on Jesus's incredible example of self-sacrifice, servanthood, and hope in reading how he chose to spend one of his last days before his torture and execution: eating a meal and washing the feet of those he loved and served. In his last days, Jesus felt no need to make headlines, frantically gain extra followers, or download every thought and teaching to ensure his legacy. Instead, he chose love, peace, and service to others. What message is there for our anxious, I'm-running-out-of-time-to-make-my-mark culture today?

- **Study Opportunity:** *Research how many times Jesus appeared hurried or anxious in the gospels vs. how many times he slowed down, allowed himself to be interrupted, and focused on being present. How does this demonstrate hope?*

Friday, March 29: GOOD FRIDAY: Read John 18:1-19:42

Today's long, agonizing text of Jesus's Passion according to John starts with the words, "When he had finished praying..." From start to finish in his ordeal, Jesus shows us how to maintain strength, faith, and love in the face of the unimaginable. Let us banish thoughts that we don't have time to read this text today; we have time-eternal time. Jesus saw to that. We have everything we need, because Jesus gave us all.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Be at the cross with Jesus today and tonight at worship.*

Saturday, March 30: EASTER VIGIL: Read John 20:1-18

On this Easter Vigil, we come full circle and read John's account of the empty tomb. This time, Jesus is there, appearing to Mary Magdalene, allowing her to be the first to share the good news, "I have seen the Lord!"

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Share a time when you felt the presence of Jesus with you. Keep sharing.*

Sunday, March 31: EASTER SUNDAY: Let us prepare our hearts and minds by praying our Opening Prayer: *Dear Lord Jesus Christ, by Your radiant and magnificent resurrection, You broke the bonds of death and rose from the grave as a conqueror. You reconciled Heaven and Earth. Our life had no hope of eternal happiness before You redeemed us. Your resurrection has washed away our sins, restored our innocence, and brought us joy. How inestimable is the tenderness of Your love! — Saint Gregory the Great*