



April 1, 2024 – Don't Miss – God's Beauty

The message of Easter was glorious. We are saved by Grace through Faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ. Halleluiah! Praise be to God. The whole world order has changed. We can't continue to live the old way, striving to follow the law and coming up short. Have you ever wondered what to do with your freedom in Christ. Join us this Sunday as we talk about living a beautiful life that rises up to God like the sweet smell of crabapple blossoms in spring.

Scripture:

Colossians 1:15-23 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. ¹⁷He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. ¹⁸Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So, he is first in everything. ¹⁹For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. ²¹This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²²Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. ²³But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

Luke 24:19-30 "What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. ²⁰But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. ²¹We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago. ²²"Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. ²³They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! ²⁴Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said." ²⁵Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. ²⁶Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" ²⁷Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, ²⁹but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. ³⁰As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them.

Questions:

- Since God is the maker of everything, he must have had a reason for making you. What do you think was God's intention when He formed you?
- What are the unique qualities that make you who you are? Do those qualities come from your life experiences or from your essence?
- What are the most beautiful things you have seen or experienced in nature in the last month? What makes them beautiful? How do they reflect the beauty of the one who created them?
- What can you do to discern what God will find pleasing or good?

Reading for the Week:

Monday: Isaiah 64:8

Tuesday: Jeremiah 1:5

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Thursday: Psalm 139:13-14

Friday: 1 Peter 4:10-11