

CRAWFORD  
BROADCASTING  
COMPANY



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**THE STAND**  
**EASTER**  
**THE RESURRECTION**

I know that my Redeemer liveth!

They say him and spoke to Him on the Emmaeus Road. They were overjoyed.

Thomas, who doubted as we all do, put his hand in the nail-pierced side and believed. There was never again for him any doubt about his Lord.

And then there was Mary and the disciples. They experienced the reality of the resurrection. They were overjoyed. The passion of the resurrection overflowed, and there was nothing more in life for them but to evangelize. To spread the good news of this Resurrection the world over. The joy, the passion of the good news echoes louder than ever 2000 years later.

Following these appearances, He left, He said to prepare a place for us. He returned, symbolically, to his Father's House, waiting patiently for those who believe. He gave His eternal promise that where He was, we would be also.

To be a Christian is to so deeply identify with this one crucified and resurrected and to live the life of faith and hope He offers. It is not an easy life for it required the taking up of the cross and following, no matter the sacrifice. We resist naturally and hang on to the things of this life. And it is so difficult, so, so difficult to sacrifice and give up and really truly take up that cross of the resurrected Christ. But it is the right way to live and it offers, as those early disciples and followers felt, joy unspeakable. Nothing in this life ultimately matters if you really believe that and follow. Nothing.

He left, but He did not leave us alone. The spirit, Holy Spirit took his place and dwells among us, reminding and encouraging, reminding us that He lives and that Gospel promises are real and true. They are ultimate truth as He is. We are urged by this Spirit, even convicted, to do the right thing, to do good, to carry on the message and the ministry. To spread good news and good acts so that by our fruits we truly shall be known. We live and act as Christians in the spirit and the energy of the resurrected Christ and the gratitude we feel motivates us to share with all humankind. Nothing is more satisfying than an act of love and charity. Nothing. We as Christians do that as unto Him, the resurrected Christ. We do that because His spirit lives in us.

The apostle Paul has written that our Christian faith is in vain, WORTHLESS, a total deception, unless Christ is risen. In short, if the resurrection not be true, if it did not really happen, than the Christian faith is a farce. For, says Paul, if everything ends with the grave then, like the flesh, it has little value. If we merely run a race without the prize, the running has very little value and none eternally. But we know as Christians what those of natural mind mock. We know He lives for He is alive in us, and we in Him. I know that for I believe, and you know that if you believe, but for those who don't, the concept of resurrection is mythical, deceitful, even ludicrous. That is why Paul tells us there is the natural man with virtually no possibility of belief, and there is the spiritual man who believes openly, freely and lovingly. For that man, Christ, His crucifixion and resurrection are reality. ULTIMATE REALITY! There is no need of physical proof, but only the fact of the INDWELLING. He lives, one with me, bonded forever with me.

There was Friday, Good Friday. It had to happen. But then came Sunday. EASTER SUNDAY! Death became life. Crucifixion became resurrection. Despair became hope. Doubt became belief. Anger became love. And the world changed, once and for all, Easter Sunday. The resurrection message began in Jerusalem 2000 years ago. It echoes, it rings truer than ever today.

HE IS ALIVE! HE IS RISEN!