

1 EASTER, 3/30; 4/2 & 3/2016
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MARK 16:1-8

The Resurrection?? – a la Dr. Seuss!

Dear friends in Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prepare our hearts, Lord, to receive your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own that in hearing we may believe and in believing we may obey your will revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our thanks to two sources who inspired this work, and from whom we borrowed ideas and quotes:

-Holy Hears a Who - Matt Tullos <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/37668/holy-hears-a-who>

-Dr. Seuss Gospel Reading - Ryan Marsh <http://belovedschurch.org/2008/11/18/dr-seuss-gospel-reading/>

One day I was walking, when I heard someone talking.
The voice was so slight – It was quiet as light.
I looked up and looked down, and all over the ground
But though looking around, no one could be found!

So then...I just listened...

**I listened and listened and listened some more,
I listened until my listeners were sore.
And while I was listening it came to my brain
About folks in the bible who listened the same.**

Moses, you know, heard God speak *from a bush!*
A bush that was burning without causing a **WHOOSH!**
10 plagues the Lord sent down on old Pharaoh's head,
But God's people were freed – they were all Moses-led.

**You heard that Elijah hid out in a cave –
He was scared and angry and not very brave.
The priests of a false god he thoroughly beat,
But his fear made him beat a most hasty retreat.**

The earth quaked, he saw fire, heard many rocks fall,
But did God speak through such forces? Not once, not at all.
They were ignored by the Lord, all three, one and all,
For God chose to speak...in a voice that was small.

**And then I thought of that first Easter Day,
When three women, up early, were making their way
To the place where the body of Jesus lay cold.
Their hearts were so heavy, yet still they were bold.**

Their eyes were surprised by some strange sights that day:
A young man in white and the stone rolled away.
They thought he was dead, that he wasn't around
And it scared them to hear that he rose from the ground.

**It scared them - maybe because they weren't sure
If the young man was telling the truth, or a lure...
To catch all Jesus' followers and lock them up tight,
It gave them a scare – it gave them a fright!**

But as we all know, when they returned to the boys,
They conquered their fear, they regained their poise.
The Marys and Salome, heard from Jesus that day...
He spoke to their hearts, saying, *I'm good! I'm okay!*

**And so, we're told, God still speaks in this manner-
Not with loud fanfare, nor big garish banner.
Yes, God continues to call his people in quiet,
Not with loud trumpets or the sound of a riot.**

God speaks through his Word, and through other people,
When they're standing in nature, or under a steeple.
God speaks to us constantly, throughout every day
As we work at our work, and play at our play.

**As we trim-up our bushes and wash-up our dogs,
As we balance our checkbooks and unplug the clogs.
As we fuss and we fight over how money is spent
As we program remotes and dust off our vents.**

And maybe that's part of the problem, you see
We're busy, oh, so busy – don't you agree?
There's so much to do – no time here to spare!
In spite of how much we really do care.

**But need we be worried? Ought we give up?
No, because God's got a plan all thought up.
God's plan is a big one, a huge one, no doubt.
But remember – he likes to whisper, not shout.**

It's a plan that is custom created for each,
A practical job, not some figure of speech.
God wants us to listen, to pray one and all,
No matter how short, no matter how tall.

**God wants us to serve all our neighbors in need,
God wants us to care for creation – indeed!
God wants us to know that Christ died – once for all!
God wants us to know that he'll help when we fall.**

It's Springtime and Easter— We've got so much joy!
A tomb once contained him, but no longer – oh Boy!
This is the good news we're all called to preach
So that all people know we're in God's loving reach.

**Don't fret if your tongue is caught-up in a tangle.
Don't fuss if your chattering teeth jitter-jangle.
Don't worry about suffering a squawky voice squeak.
God's Spirit is with you – you'll know what to speak.**

The followers of Jesus all started out shy.
They hemmed and they hawed and they couldn't say why.
But God wanted them all to be a brave herald,
Be they a Mary, Mark, Jennie or Gerald.

**Just think of them gathered, with Jesus, alive!
His promises showing that they would all thrive.
Still, they weren't sure how long Jesus would stay,
They hoped he'd rejoin them forever and a day!**

But Jesus just smiled and then said, *Don't worry,
Don't fret, don't be anxious, don't be in a hurry
to leave our fair city at this very hour –
Stay here til the Spirit gives you God's precious power.*

**Then up, up, he went, to the highest of heights;
The disciples all watched as he went out of sight...
Then angels came saying, *It's over, dear friends.
But don't worry, you'll all get to see him again.***

So go with this good news, dear friends, one and all,
Take it and share it with all – that's our call.
By the Lord we are gifted and sent out to the fields.
Our fears will be lifted when God's Word we yield!!

**Go out to the nations, go baptize and teach,
Go near and go far, go welcome folks each.
Remember the Father, the Spirit and Son,
They'll lovingly bless us all each – everyone!**

Amen.