

The Lakeside

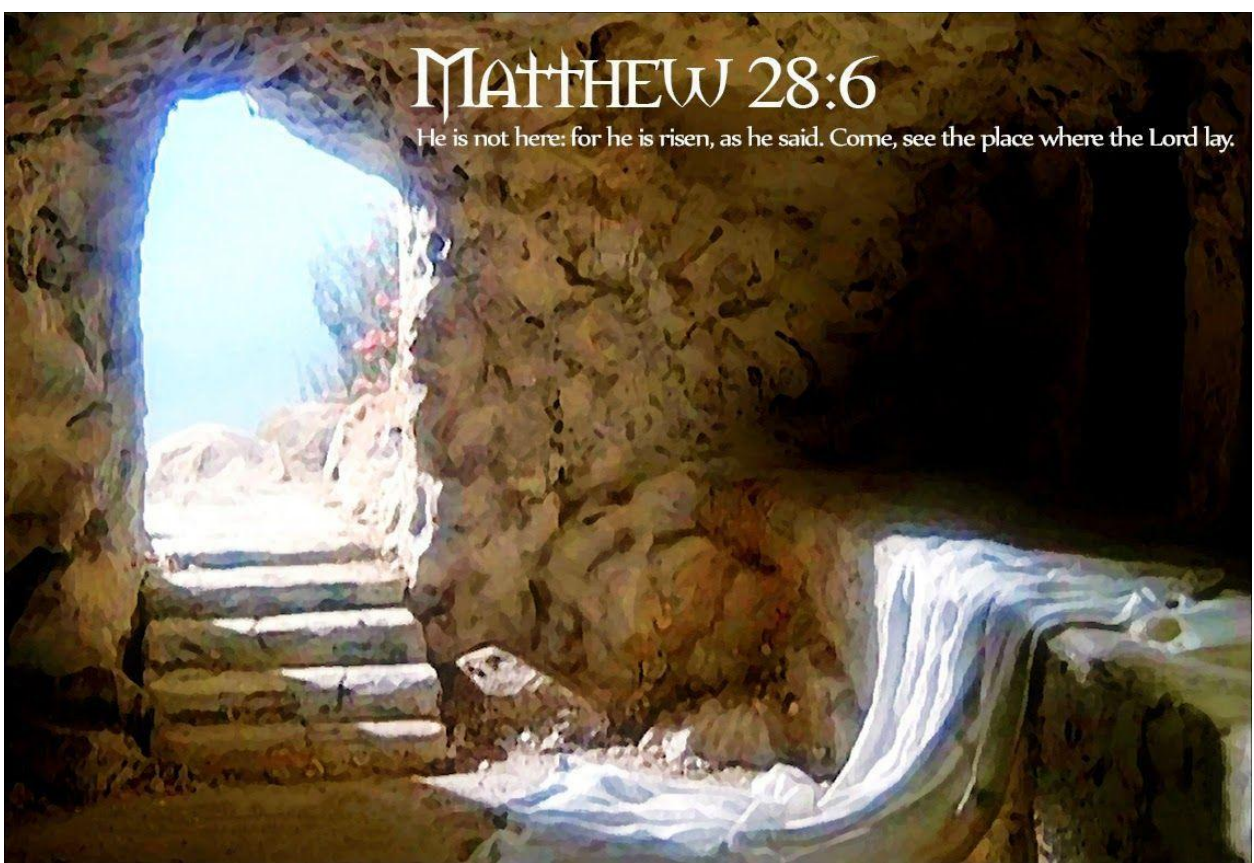


Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday April 14, 2025 - Hosea 6: 3

3 Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

Read Hosea 3 for meditation and inspiration.



A Love Supreme

With a seemingly profound sense of humility, the great saxophonist, John Coltrane, wrote the following in the liner notes of his breakthrough album entitled "A Love Supreme." He stated with great conviction that, "God breathes through us so completely. . .So gently we hardly feel it. . .yet it is our everything." He came to this understanding of life and especially his own life as he recounts: "During the year 1957, I experienced, by the grace of God, a spiritual awakening which has led me to a richer, fuller, more productive life. At that time, in gratitude, I asked to be given the means and privilege to make others happy through music... to inspire them to realize more and more of their capacities for living meaningful lives because there certainly is meaning to life. I feel like this has been granted through His grace."

Note that Coltrane emphasized his ability to make others happy through music -- his ability to impress people with his music. He thought about it and asked for it. And while these are wonderful abilities to aspire to, there is a difference between impressing others and simply expressing yourself -- in spirit and truth.

Christian author C.S. Lewis observed in *Mere Christianity*, "You will never make a good impression on other people until you stop thinking about what sort of impression you are making."

Easter is God showing authentic love. This love is total as he gave Himself completely on Calvary's Cross. It is through this love that you and I can find confidence not in ourselves but in Him to be authentic disciples of forgiving love and mercy with the fullness of grace. We are to be in Him not in ourselves alone. This way our confidence is not in our strength and abilities but in His. Our courage and perseverance is really His.

Over and over He told his disciples to "Fear Not!" And that theme carries on today.

So, give up your self-conscious worry and your fear of failure or what others might think and move forward as His person.

Elie Wiesel, a great humanitarian and distinguished author, makes a powerful statement on human growth in his book, "Souls on Fire." In it, he suggests that when we die and go to meet our Maker, we're not going to be asked why we didn't become a great religious leader or why we didn't find a cure for cancer. Instead, we will be asked, "Why didn't you become you?" Why didn't you accept the fire of God's Love into your heart to become the person God intended for you to be?

The stone is rolled away, and it is rolled away for YOU! Walk out and become you the you that you were meant to be.

In Easter hope,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger".

Roger