

Text: Ac 20.7

Proposition: The Lord's Day, Sunday, is our day of worship because our Lord gave us life on that day.

This afternoon, I want to revisit our passage from this morning and pick up again on part of its theme. Turn first to Ac 20.7.

Ac 20.7 ¶ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

Two things about the text:

1. It is Sunday (the first day of the week)
2. They are gathering for communion (to break bread)

I want to talk about Resurrection Day, otherwise known as Sunday. I want to talk about the Christian tradition of Sunday worship.

We worship Jesus because he proved everything he said by the resurrection. We don't hold Sunday by command, but by consensus.

The consensus is long. It seems to have come from Day One of the Christian era. I think we can show that from the Bible.

The consensus finds its root in the resurrection, and so we find our life, right in that same event.

I. How the first day of the week came about

A. After the Sabbath, on the first day, came the women

Mt 28.1 ¶ Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.

Mk 16.2-3 Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.³ They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"

Lk 24.1-2 ¶ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

B. The women stayed to investigate, but Mary ran to Peter and John

Jn 20.1-2 ¶ Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb.² So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

C. The women beheld an angel, who spoke to them

Mt 28.2 And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.

Mt 28.5-7 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified.⁶ “He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.⁷ “Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”

Lk 24.4-9 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing;⁵ and as *the women* were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men* said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead?⁶ “He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee,⁷ saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”

D. As the women ran, they met Jesus

Mt 28.9-10 And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

E. Peter and John run to investigate

Jn 20.3-10 So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; ⁵ and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in. ⁶ And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*, ⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

F. Mary follows back and meets Jesus alone

Jn 20.11-18 ¶ But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and *that* He had said these things to her.

G. The disciples don't believe the women

Mk 16.10-11 She [Mary Magdelene] went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. ¹¹ When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

H. Jesus meets the men on the way to Emmaus

Lk 24.13-15 ¶ And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them.

Lk 24.25-27 And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

I. And then he appeared to the eleven — except Thomas

Jn 20.19-25 ¶ So when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace *be* with you." ²⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ "If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained."

²⁴ ¶ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

J. They gathered again with Thomas, and...

Jn 20.26-28 ¶ After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace *be* with you.” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” ²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

1. Our focus was the story
2. But notice the day
 - a. Sunday is 1 (Resurrection Day)
 - b. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday is 7 days
 - c. Sunday next is 8: Resurrection Day

II. What the churches did on the first day of the week

A. They met together on the first day of the week for Communion and Preaching (Troas)

Ac 20.7 ¶ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

B. Their meeting on the first day of the week seems to be a widespread habit (Corinth)

1 Cor 16.2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

So far we have this: Resurrection on Sunday

And this: meeting on Sunday *by consent*, or as I said earlier: *consensus* (not command)

III. What they came to call the first day of the week

Rev 1.10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet,

A. John was in exile on the Isle of Patmos

B. As he worshiped on the Lord's Day (Sunday) he heard a voice

1. No doubt familiar
2. Nevertheless, also changed

Rev 1.12-18 ¶ Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;¹³ and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.¹⁴ His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.¹⁵ His feet *were* like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters.¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

¹⁷ ¶ When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,¹⁸ and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Conclusion:

Proposition: The Lord's Day, Sunday, is our day of worship because our Lord gave us life on that day.

Do you have eternal life?

You can have it by faith in Jesus Christ as your only Saviour from sin. He died bearing your sins, He rose offering you life.