**The Crucified and Risen King**

**The Word**

Read together Luke 24

**The Big Idea**

Luke’s Resurrection account reveals the absolute necessity of the cross and resurrection of Jesus. Sin, suffering, and death present realities that the Messiah had to contend with, and through his death and resurrection he brings forgiveness, comfort, and eternal life.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. As you read Luke’s resurrection account, what strikes you most and why?

2. Consider each of the three reasons mentioned on Sunday as to why it was necessary that the Messiah should suffer and die and be raised to life: to bring forgiveness of sin, to be our companion in suffering, and to conquer death for us all. Which reason resonated most with you and why?

3. Considered Muholland’s 4 kinds of sin mentioned on Sunday: gross sins, respectable sins, unconscious sins, and trust structures. As you consider your own journey with Jesus, how have you become more aware of those various kinds of sin?

4. Sunday’s message concluded with the idea that death and resurrection was not just God’s pattern for Jesus’ life; it is also God’s pattern for our lives today. What do you think was meant by that, and how have you seen that play out in your own life?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Introduction

A. Luke presents his resurrection account as a gradual “opening” of the disciple’s hearts, minds, and eyes to the reality of his resurrection

B. He also presents the necessity of the cross and resurrection in the journey of the Messiah (see v. 6-7, 26, and 44-46)

 1. “It was necessary”

2. But for the disciples it wasn’t at all obvious that it was necessary for the Messiah to be crucified and to rise again

3. The image of Messiah traveling through a dark tunnel (sin, suffering, and death) and emerging victorious on the other side (forgiveness, freedom, resurrection life)

II. It was necessary because of sin

A. The disciples saw the sinners out there (Romans, religious leaders), but they underestimated the sin within their own hearts

 B. Jesus came to deal with the sin inside of each one of us

1. Robert Muholland’s four kinds of sin: gross sins, respectable sins, unconscious sin, and trust structures

2. The longer we’re on this journey with Jesus, the more we’re aware of just how deep and insidious our sin is

3. The cross is God’s necessary solution to sin

C. The resurrection is God’s resounding “yes” to Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins and his guarantee that we are totally forgiven and without condemnation

D. In the midst of a culture that tries to downplay its sins and shortcomings, we can live in the full truth of who we are in all our imperfections, knowing we are totally forgiven

III. It was necessary because of suffering

 A. He came to be “Immanuel”: God with us in our suffering

 B. There is so much suffering in this world and even in our lives today

C. It was necessary that he suffer (Isaiah 53:5) but also that he remain faithful through suffering

D. We now have a king who is in charge of the world who totally understands our suffering and is with us as our faithful companion in our suffering

E. In the midst of a culture that tries to avoid suffering, we can courageously step into the suffering laid before us and find meaning in suffering because of the deep fellowship with Jesus we can experience there.

IV. It was necessary because of death

 A. Death is both the ultimate mystery and the one guarantee

B. Jesus fights death in a very counter-intuitive way: by going straight into the heart of death and letting it do its worst to him

C. He emerges from the grave having conquered death and having received resurrection life, indestructible life

D. “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.” (Rev 1:17)

E. In the midst of a culture that denies and avoids all things related to death, we can look death square in the face, knowing our Lord has conquered death.

V. Death and Resurrection

 A. It was the necessary pattern of Jesus’ life

 B. It is the necessary pattern of our lives

1. Each day we are being called to die (to control, our plans, our own righteousness, etc.)

2. Each day we are invited to receive new life in Christ (forgiveness, hope, freedom, etc.)