

April 5, 2015
“While It Was Still Dark!”
(John 20: 1-9)

This is the most important day in the year for _____.

Tomorrow is the biggest day of the year for some _____.

Along with a group of women, _____ and
_____ prepared Christ’s body for burial.

They were risking their _____. That showed how much
he meant to them.

It is significant that they laid him in a _____ grave.

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. Her first reaction was that someone
had _____ Christ’s body.

#1. – It’s a _____ world without Easter!

Note from Gracie Allen to George Burns: *“Never place a
_____ where God has placed a _____.”*

Such a sentiment makes no sense without _____!

There is no hard scientific evidence of _____! Without
Easter, there is only _____ speculation.

Father who lost young son in accident said: *“Until you stare death eye-
to-eye, Easter is just a word. It’s a nice day with bunny rabbits and
eggs...but when someone so precious to you dies, Easter becomes
everything...an anchor in a fierce storm...a rock on which to stand...a
hope that raises you above despair and keeps you going.”*

**#2. – With Easter, we see _____ bursting forward with every
blossom of springtime!**

We subsist on _____! It is built into every fiber of our being.
(over)

There is amazing _____ in hope!

Hope is what _____ is all about.

#3. – Thank God for _____!

We don’t have scientific evidence for life beyond the grave, but we do
have _____ evidence.

Wolfhart Pannenberg: *“The evidence for Jesus’ resurrection is so
strong that nobody would question it except for two things: First, it is a
very unusual event. And second, if you believe it happened, you have to
change the way you live.”*

The only reason a person might reject the resurrection is that it might
require them to make a _____ in how they are _____!

It’s sad, but they are free to _____ the Good News of Easter if
they so choose.

Easter is God’s _____ beaming into a dark, dark world.

Because Christ lives, the world is _____ than it has ever been
before!

We can hear God saying to His Son: “Arise, my love! Death no longer
has a hold on you!”

**Our message today is: “ARISE, AND LIVE!
DEATH NO LONGER HAS A HOLD ON YOU!!”**