

a cross and how they had laid him to rest. And then came Easter morning. And now they had seen him and eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection. They are the witnesses to all this.

Hearing this story, Cornelius and all his household are overjoyed. This is the greatest story ever told. They have heard it from the mouth of Peter and they accept its truth. They receive baptism and become followers, not of a dead man, nor of a missing person, but of Jesus, the Lord of life.

Application

On this Easter Day, we gather to rejoice in the resurrection of the Lord and to proclaim to all the world, "Jesus Christ is risen from the dead." We speak to a world that is often anxious about death and worried about life. We speak to people who are touched by death every day in the violent arena of our planet. We speak to people who have lost loved ones in upsetting circumstances. We speak to people who live every day with the memory of dear ones who have disappeared. Perhaps we are those people too.

Today we are reminded that we have a ministry to perform for the love of this world and all the people in it. We have been ordered, like Peter, to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus to the whole of creation. We are to keep our minds and hearts fixed firmly on heavenly things and, in this faith, to comfort those in sorrow, to cheer those who weep, and to turn our eyes to behold the glory of Christ.

The Lord of life will not allow anyone to be lost, except the one who chooses to be lost. All the missing persons of this world Jesus Christ will care for. Jesus himself was the most abandoned in this world, and look – he is risen!