

# LIVING FAITH

EASTER SUNDAY  
APRIL 20, 2025



## THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY-- Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

## REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Happy Easter! The women came to the tomb early in the morning to complete the burial rites for Jesus. Imagine their surprise when they found the huge, heavy stone rolled away, and the tomb empty! That empty tomb changed everything. The angels confirmed it with the question, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women ran to tell the Apostles the news. Imagine their frustration when the Apostles did not believe them! Peter must have realized, though, that there really was something momentous going on. He ran to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said.

Hope was born that morning. Jesus had risen from the dead. Death could not confine him. Because of that morning, death cannot confine us, either.

## TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- How do you need to experience hope?
- What new life do you ask of Jesus for yourself or for someone else?



# Surprise! It's Empty!

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Luke 24:2-3 (NIV)

Based on Luke 24:1-12



A G K Y T Q S P I C E S X E F  
 A R D T T C G H R J T V H N F  
 F O F R G N D E Y O G W Y T R  
 B U Z J I C C H E P L V V E I  
 W N W V C N T B W X S L R R G  
 G D I D E C V R S O D T E E H  
 B L P S S C Y V E R M A O D T  
 R H I E B R D B B M S E Y N G  
 Y R G D Z B G D A C E F N N E  
 I F I R S T B O W E D M I L B  
 V D F D G B A R L F A N B R Z  
 H X E A X W W C V W R O T E R  
 M Y J A C E A I R O Y V O X R  
 H I G D D E Y M M S Q N M U K  
 Y T R D S K S Z B H P M B F C

BOWED	FACES	GROUND	MORNING	RISEN
WOMEN	WEEK	FRIGHT	STONE	LIVING
ROLLED	FIRST	REMEMBER	DAY	DEAD
TOMB	AWAY	SPICES	ENTERED	BODY

# THE CHURCH TEACHES

## THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

### FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**639** The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event, with manifestations that were historically verified, as the New Testament bears witness. In about A.D. 56 St. Paul could already write to the Corinthians: "I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve." The Apostle speaks here of the living tradition of the Resurrection which he had learned after his conversion at the gates of Damascus.



#### THE EMPTY TOMB

**640** "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." The first element we encounter in the framework of the Easter events is the empty tomb. In itself it is not a direct proof of Resurrection; the absence of Christ's body from the tomb could be explained otherwise. Nonetheless the empty tomb was still an essential sign for all. Its discovery by the disciples was the first step toward recognizing the very fact of the Resurrection. This was the case, first with the holy women, and then with Peter. The disciple "whom Jesus loved" affirmed that when he entered the empty tomb and discovered "the linen cloths lying there", "he saw and believed". This suggests that he realized from the empty tomb's condition that the absence of Jesus' body could not have been of human doing and that Jesus had not simply returned to earthly life as had been the case with Lazarus.



#### THE APPEARANCES OF THE RISEN JESUS

**641** Mary Magdalene and the holy women who came to finish anointing the body of Jesus, which had been buried in haste because the Sabbath began on the evening of Good Friday, were the first to encounter the Risen One. Thus the women were the first messengers of Christ's Resurrection for the apostles themselves. They were the next to whom Jesus appears: first Peter, then the Twelve. Peter had been called to strengthen the faith of his brothers, and so sees the Risen One before them; it is on the basis of his testimony that the community exclaims: "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"



**642** Everything that happened during those Paschal days involves each of the apostles - and Peter in particular - in the building of the new era begun on Easter morning. As witnesses of the Risen One, they remain the foundation stones of his Church. The faith of the first community of believers is based on the witness of concrete men known to the Christians and for the most part still living among them. Peter and the Twelve are the primary "witnesses to his Resurrection", but they are not the only ones - Paul speaks clearly of more than five hundred persons to whom Jesus appeared on a single occasion and also of James and of all the apostles.



## THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS IN POETRY

### Easter Communion

by Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ

Pure fasted faces draw unto this feast:  
God comes all sweetness to your Lenten lips.  
You striped in secret with breath-taking whips,  
Those crooked rough-scored chequers may be pieced  
To crosses meant for Jesu's; you whom the East  
With draught of thin and pursuant cold so nips  
Breathe Easter now; you serged fellowships,  
You vigil-keepers with low flames decreased,

God shall o'er-brim the measures you have spent  
With oil of gladness, for sackcloth and frieze  
And the ever-fretting shirt of punishment  
Give myrrhy-threaded golden folds of ease.  
Your scarce-sheathed bones are weary of being bent:  
Lo, God shall strengthen all the feeble knees.



Poets and artists can sometimes express truths that the rest of us struggle to express with our prose. Gerard Manley Hopkins, a Jesuit and a convert to Roman Catholicism, is named among the greatest of English poets. He was born in England in 1844 and died in 1889 in Ireland.

