

Easter Sunday

"Peace be with you."

Luke's Easter account

Luke 24:1–12 (NRSVue) — **1** But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. **2** They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but when they went in they did not find the body. **4** While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. **5** 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. **6** Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, **7** that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." **8** Then they remembered his words, **9** and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. **10** Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. **11** But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. **12** 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.

Luke 24:34–43 (NRSVue) — **34** They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" **35** Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. **36** While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." **37** They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. **38** He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39** Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." **40** And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **41** Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate in their presence.

Luke 24:44–49 (NRSVue) — **44** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, **46** and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day **47** and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Jesus eagerly desire to sit with us at table

Luke 22:15–16 (NRSVue) — **15** He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, **16** for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Peace be with you

John 20:19–21 (NRSVue) — **19** When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

The account of Thomas

John 20:24–29 (NRSVue) — **24** But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” **26** A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” **28** Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **29** Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Matthew 18:20 (NRSVue) — **20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

A simple prayer for mercy and forgiveness

Dear Jesus, my Lord and my God, have mercy upon me, a sinner.

The key to sharing the new world is faith: believing in Jesus, trusting that he is God’s Messiah, the one coming into the world, into our world, into our pain and sorrow and death. -N. T. Wright

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