



The Way of Light

Easter to Pentecost,



01: Jesus is raised from the dead (Mark 16:1-8)



"The Women at the Empty Tomb" by Julie Rodriguez Jones

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint the body of Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young person, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But the figure dressed in white said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. Jesus has been raised and is not here. Look, there is the place they laid the body. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them...

Pray: *God of Resurrection, we journey in grief to the tombs where we plan to remember our losses and our limitations; places we expect to find death. Yet, we are amazed to find that, by Your grace and power, a stone has rolled away and reveals life. Point us anew in the direction where we will meet the Risen Christ on the path of resurrection and new life.*

02: The tomb of Jesus is found empty (John 20:2-10)



"The Empty Tomb" by Peter Whitcombe

So (Mary) ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed...

Pray: *God of Resurrection, when the news of new life reaches us, may we hurry to greet it as Your disciples did. Even though we cannot fully understand how You are at work, may we, like the disciple whom You loved, see and believe that, with You, all things are possible.*

03: Mary Magdalene meets the Risen Jesus (from John 20:11-18)



"Christ and Saint Mary Magdalen At The Tomb" by Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels... They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, Mary said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew,

"Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to God. But go to my disciples and say to them, 'I am ascending to God, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Pray: *God of Resurrection, even in the wake of the Good News, often we still cannot sense where You are. Our confusion, our fears, and our tears, can blur Your presence. As You did with Mary, call us by name with Your familiar voice, and remind us that, as always, You are here.*

04: The Risen Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus (from Luke 24: 13-27)



"Road to Emmaus" by Ivanka Demchuk

On that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And Jesus said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" Jesus asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth..." Then Jesus said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them the things foretold about the Messiah in all the scriptures.

Pray: *God of Resurrection, as we discern our path, we are blessed with companions on the journey with whom we share our questions and our wondering. May we remember that in our shared journey, Your presence, even if unrecognized, draws near in counsel and companionship during holy conversation.*

05: The Risen Jesus is recognized in the breaking of bread (from Luke 24:28-35)



"Les pèlerins d'Emmaüs" (The Pilgrims of Emmaus) by Jean-Marie Pirot aka Arcabas

As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead as if going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us..." So Jesus went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. Then they told what had happened on the road, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Pray: *God of Resurrection, our hearts and spirits invite You to stay with us longer. Through the simplest actions and the most familiar words, may our eyes be opened again to recognize You; to know it is Your holy presence that stirs and quickens us to embrace and to share new life.*

06: The Risen Jesus appears to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem (Luke 24:36-43)



"Appearance to the Disciples" by Ed De Guzman

While they were talking about this, Jesus stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Jesus said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 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." And when Jesus had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, Jesus said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and Jesus took it and ate in their presence.

Pray: *God of Resurrection, even after we have heard the good news and the promise of new life in You, we doubt, and we are startled and even frightened when You show up. Comfort and challenge us with Your presence so disbelief can turn to joy.*

07: The Risen Jesus grants the disciples peace and the power to forgive sins (John 20:19-23)



"The Great Commission" by Nalini Jayasuriya

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After saying this, Jesus showed them his hands and side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you." When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Pray: *God of Resurrection, You share the breath of life and Your Spirit with us. With it You share peace and freedom. You also challenge us with the work of forgiveness. We learn that the new life we find through forgiveness, is new life for others which You entrust into our hands – to give or to withhold. May we share this new life as freely as You have shared with us.*

08: The Risen Jesus appears and strengthens the faith of Thomas (John 20:24-29)



"The Incredulity of Saint Thomas" by Caravaggio

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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." A week later the 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."

Then Jesus 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." Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!" 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."

Pray: *God of Resurrection, we hear Good News of new life from others. We long to believe yet still have doubts. May our doubt and our questions be the invitation for You to show up and show us that a promise which seems too good to be true is fulfilled in You.*

09: The Risen Jesus appears at the Sea of Tiberias (from John 21:1-13)



"Breakfast At Dawn" by Mike Moyers

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias...(They were gathered together and) Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered, "No." Jesus said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

Pray: *God of Resurrection, Your holy presence arrives and unexpectedly blesses the ordinary labors of our everyday lives. You invite us to pause and allow You to refresh and nourish us. In the simplicity and intimacy of Your presence, no questions remain. We know it is You. You are here.*

10: The Risen Jesus speaks with Peter commissioning him to feed the flock (from John 21:15-19)



"The Thirteenth Resurrection Appearance" by Del Parson

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" Peter replied, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time Jesus asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." Jesus said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because Jesus said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep..." After this Jesus said to him, "Follow me."

Pray: *God of Resurrection, we often stray and, like Peter, sometimes fail as Your followers. We long for second and third chances to show how much we love You. As we embrace the grace of Your forgiveness and follow You once more, may we show our love by faithfully serving others.*

11: The Risen Jesus commissions the disciples (Matthew 28:16-20)



"The Great Commission" by He Qi

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to follow everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Pray: *God of Resurrection, we gather in awe and wonder as we bear witness to the Good News. You remind us that You do not call us to stay where we are, but command us to go to others. The new life You offer is not intended as Good News for us alone; it is meant to be Good News for all. Empower and strengthen us with the promise of Your enduring presence as we share the Good News with others.*

12: The Risen Jesus ascends to heaven (Acts 1:6-11)



"The Ascension of Christ" by Salvador Dali

When they had come together, they asked, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that have been set by God's own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When Jesus had said this, as they were watching, Jesus was lifted up and hidden from their sight by a cloud.

While Jesus was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two figures in white robes stood by them. They said, "Galileans, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Pray: *God of Resurrection, we have seen Your power and presence at work and we eagerly project our own ideas about what may come next. When You seem to withdraw, we fill the space with new questions. May we be reminded that even if You are unseen for a time, Your plan unfolds, and the promised presence of Your Spirit remains.*

13: Mary and the disciples wait in prayer (Acts 1:12-14)

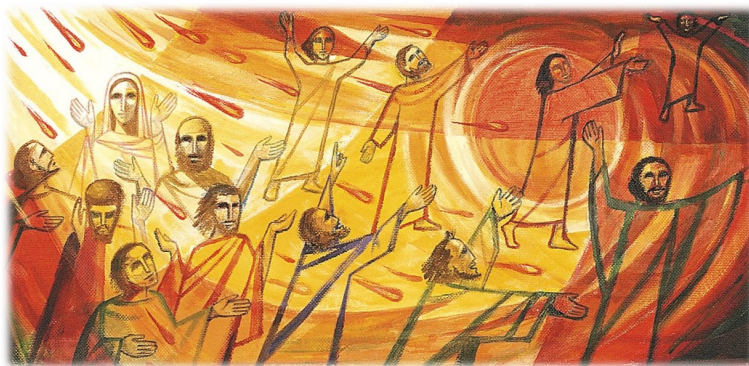


"Pentecost" by Duccio di Buoninsegna

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Pray: *God of Resurrection, there are times You call us to act and there are times You call us to wait upon You. Whether in solitude or gathered with others, as the family and followers Jesus gathered in the upper room, we remember that to wait, watch, and pray are necessary preparations to receive Your Spirit.*

14: The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-8 & 11-13)



"Pentecost" by Ed Friedlander

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability... Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the

crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?...We hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

Pray: *God of Resurrection, may Your Holy Spirit come now with power and with freedom! Set our hearts ablaze. Open our ears. Loosen our tongues. May Your Spirit pour in and through us now as it did at Pentecost. May we, too, boldly proclaim the Good News of new life to be heard and embraced throughout Your creation!*