

In communion with the Risen Jesus



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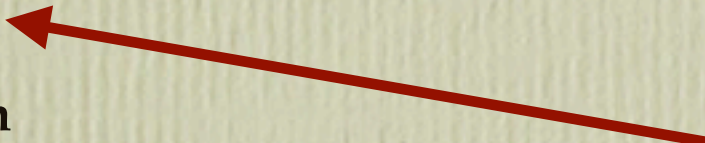
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‘Father, glorify me
in your own presence’ (John 17:5)

He descended into hell (Hades)





John 14:19

‘In a little while the world
will no longer see me,
but you will see me;
because I live,
you also will live.’

I. The empty tomb and the Promise



The story of an empty tomb already contains, for those with faith, a promise and a hope. John's community experienced Jesus, as do we all, as the one who 'is not here' the way he was before his death.

They did experience Jesus as with them, as living', as 'risen'.

God was faithful to Jesus, and God will be faithful to those who give their lives because of him.

Mark 16:1-5

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”

Looking up, they see that the stone, which was very large, has already been rolled back.

Entering the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

Mark 16:6-8

But he says to them, “Do not be alarmed;
you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.
He has been raised; he is not here.
Look, there is the place they laid him.

But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you
to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” (14:28)

Going out, they fled from the tomb,
for terror and amazement had seized them;
and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

John 20:1-2

‘Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.
So she 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.’



John 20:3-4

‘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.



John 20:5-10

‘The other disciple 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;

for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Then the disciples returned to their homes.’

John 20:11-14

‘But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

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.



John 20:15-16

Jesus said to her,

‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,

‘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!’ (‘My Master’)

Gregory the Great c.600

Because of the ardent love of her heart,
Mary continued seeking him when she could not find him,
even after the other disciples had gone away.
In tears she kept searching, and, afire with love, she yearned for him.
Thus it happened that she alone saw him.
She had already sought and found nothing,
but she continued seeking and so found the object of her love.
While she was seeking, her longing grew stronger and stronger,
until it was allayed in the embrace of Him whom she was seeking ...
At first she did not recognise him, but then Jesus said to her: 'Mary' ...
as if to say: 'Now recognise the one who recognises you' ...
Outwardly it was He who was the object of her search,
but inwardly it was He who was teaching her to search for Him.

Experiences

Faith-understanding

How to communicate the experience to others

metaphoric, symbolic language.

As we read their words we must allow the wonder of their inspired art to draw us into what is necessarily beyond words.

In this way we may capture something of their lively faith and hopefully recognise some of our own experiences in theirs.



‘There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another ... So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body’(1Corinthians 15:40-44).

Longing

‘When you search for me, you will find me;
if you seek me with all your heart,
I will let you find me, says Yahweh’ (Jeremiah 29:13)

‘O Lord, all my longing is known to you;
my sighing is not hidden from you’ (Psalm 38:9) .

‘As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so I long for you, O God.

I thirst for God, for the living God.

When will I come and behold the face of God?’ (Psalm 42:1-2)

‘I yearn for you in the night,
my spirit within me earnestly seeks you’ (Isaiah 26:9).

‘The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.”
Let everyone who hears say, “Come.”
Let everyone who is thirsty come.
Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift ...
The one who testifies to these things says,
“Surely I am coming soon.”
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!’ (Revelation 22:17,20).

‘God is silent and hidden so that the heart,
thus pierced and hurt by desire,
may finally open up to him,
with a greater capacity for receiving him.’
(Arminjon *Cantata of Love*, page 251).

‘By delaying the fulfilment of desire, God stretches it;
by making us desire he expands the soul,
and by this expansion he increases its capacity’ (Augustine, *On 1 John*).

‘The Bridegroom hides when he is sought,
so that, not finding him,
the Bride may seek him with a renewed ardour;
and the bride is hampered in her search
so that this delay may increase the capacity for God,
and that she may find one day more fully
what she was seeking’ (Gregory the Great *Moralia* V,6).



II. The Eucharist

1. The disciples on the road to Emmaus Luke 24: 13-35

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he 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 him; 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. They were saying, ‘**It is true.** The Lord has risen indeed. He has appeared to Simon!’

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

2. The Assembled Community

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He 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.” (Metaphor! Ezekiel 37 - the dry bones) (Luke 24:36-39).

1 Corinthians 15:44

‘It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.’

1 Corinthians 15:50

‘Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.’

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 Jews.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'
After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you' (John 20:19-21).



John 20:21-23

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'

'If you (**disciples**, see 20:19) forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them;
if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

John 20:24-25

‘But 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 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.’

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.’

Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’



John 20:30-31

‘Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.’

‘God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life’(John 3:16).

4. John 21:15-17

‘When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter,

‘Simon son of John, do you love (ἀγαπᾷς) me more than these?’

Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord; you know that I love (φιλῶ) you.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’

A second time he said to him,

‘Simon son of John, do you love (ἀγαπᾷς) me?’

He said to him, ‘Lord; you know that I love (φιλῶ) you.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’

Jesus said to him the third time,

‘Simon son of John, do you love (φιλεῖς) me?’

Peter was hurt because Jesus said to him the third time,

‘Do you love (φιλεῖς) me?’ And he said to him,

‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love (φιλῶ) you.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped 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 Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am **with you** always, to the end of the age.'

'They shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, "God **is with us**." (Matthew 1:23).