

## WALKING WITH JESUS BETWEEN EASTER AND PENTECOST



### 1. ON THE WAY TO THE CROSS (Luke 23:26-32)

**As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.**

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

Simon helps Jesus to carry his cross, so the cross is lighter. Jesus gets up again. Getting near others in their distress, that is our humanity with its source in God.

**As for me, have I already helped someone in their suffering?**

### 2. THE CRUCIFIXION (Luke 23:33-49)

**When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals — one on his right, the other on his left.** Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

**There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

**The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.**

Jesus' mission is accomplished. He is nailed to the cross which is the symbol of man's cruelty and failure. They divide up his clothes between the soldiers. The bystanders insult him and mock him. Jesus still has the strength to comfort and to commit Mary to his disciple John and vice versa.

**There is no greater love than to give your life for those you love. How do I show my love to others?**

### 3. JESUS' BURIAL (Luke 23:50-56)

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no-one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Joseph of Arimathea takes down Jesus' body from the cross and lays it in his own freshly-made tomb. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." Jesus had to be buried in order to bring an end to death for all mankind.

**Bless you Jesus. You have opened up a new way of life for me.**

#### 4. EASTER DAY (Luke 24:1-8)

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with 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; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."

Victory over death! Christ is risen! Early Sunday morning, the women find the tomb empty. Jesus' body is no longer there. Two angels explain to them that what Jesus had announced to them while he was alive has really happened.

**We also, in faith, see signs of Your living presence in our lives today!**

#### 5. THE WOMEN ANNOUNCE THE RESURRECTION (Luke 24:9-12)

When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. **It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.** But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Amazing! The disciples doubt the women's testimony! How can this be? I must see this!

**As for me, am I unbelieving or believing? Do I need evidence to believe?**

#### 6. THE ROAD TO EMMAUS (Luke 24:13-35)

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus...They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognising him... When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

The disciples recognize the Lord who is alive. They are so full of joy that they immediately return to Jerusalem to tell their friends the good news!

**How pleasant it is to share our good news!**

#### 7. JESUS APPEARS TO THE ELEVEN DISCIPLES (Luke 24:36-49)

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them... **"Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself!** ... I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The disciples are so discouraged that they need help to see clearly.

**When I am doubting, questioning, who is beside me to listen to me? What do I need?**

## 8. ASCENSION (Luke 24:50-53)

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

Jesus goes back to heaven to be reunited with his Father. But before that he makes three promises to his friends. He will be with them everyday and he will come back at the end of time. He will soon send them his Holy Spirit to renew the joy of his presence and love!

**The gifts of God are boundless. Do I recognize them in my life? Can I name them?**

## 9. PENTECOST (Acts 2:1-13)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them.**

A mighty wind and the course of history is changed...Beforehand, the disciples were timid and afraid. Now, filled with the Holy Spirit, the disciples boldly announce the good news of the Gospel.

**Let's open our hearts to the boldness of the Spirit! Let's become witnesses, full of the light of God's love!**