

Word of God – Word of Life

Luke 24:1-53

Jesus Lives! In Us, Among Us, For Us and Through Us

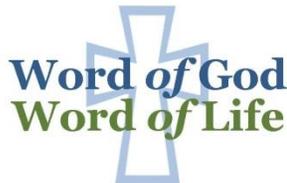
One way of letting Luke's magnificent, multi-layered account of the first Easter shape our lives is to let each of the three sections first speak for themselves – making connections with our own Easter faith.

In each section Luke shows people moving from sorrow to joy; from bewilderment to understanding; from unbelief to faith. They (and we) are asked to remember the words of Scripture and the very words of Jesus.

- Luke 24:1-12 – Faithful, but broken-hearted women discover an empty tomb and hear a message of incredible hope and joy. Their witness, while true, is dismissed.
- Luke 24:13-35 – Two disciples on the road of broken dreams and shattered hopes hear words that begin to burn away their sorrow and fears. They receive in the breaking of bread more than their dreams could contain.
- Luke 24:36-53 – One emphasis here is that the Risen Lord is none other than the servant-minded Jesus who was betrayed, forsaken, suffered and died. Keeping Cross and Empty Tomb together empowers our mission of proclaiming repentance and forgiveness to all people.

Luke ends the story of Easter, and his entire Gospel, on notes of blessing, of joy and of continuing worship in community.

The suggestion is that you spend one week with each section, perhaps reflecting on how your own faith journey includes both sorrow and joy, perplexity and understanding, doubts and faith. You might also be alert to ways that the Risen Lord is present in your life and in our congregation.



Week One

Luke 23:49 – 24:12

The Women at the Tomb From Sorrowful Duty to Joyful Witness

Luke has brought the women disciples into the story at Luke 8:2-3. The women reappear at Luke 23:49-56 as they witness Jesus' death and burial and make preparations for one final act of devotion.

- *Can you think of a time in your life when you decided to keep going and doing in the midst of heartbreak and loss of hope?*

Luke continues the theme of reversal as the women are the first to come to faith and share the news that Jesus has been raised. At verses 5 and 6, the women are gently scolded for not having truly listened as Jesus spoke of his sufferings and death; beginning the week before the Transfiguration (Luke 9:21-22) and after (Luke 18:31-34).

- *What are some aspects of the Christian faith and teachings that you find difficult to recall, understand, believe or obey?*

Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

- *What is your experience of telling someone of your faith in Jesus?*

The men do not believe the women's testimony, perhaps in part because of gender bias. The men had not accepted the necessity of Jesus' suffering and death, so they were prevented from remembering or even imagining Jesus' promise of resurrection. Peter encounters the empty tomb but is left merely wondering, not believing.

Take some time to recall times of spiritual joy. Share one such experience with a friend or family member.

