

An Easter Celebration

Road to Emmaus:
Hope for the Hopeless



For Meditation

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?

John 11:25-26

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!* According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.**

1 Peter 1:3-4

For Meditation

The point of Easter is that God is in the process of clearing this world of all heartbreak.

John Piper

Therefore

Christ's resurrection not only gives you hope for the future; it gives you hope to handle your scars right now.

Tim Keller

WELCOME

The Lord is risen!
The Lord is risen, indeed!

Rejoice!

*HE IS GOD! He cannot stay dead.
HE IS ALIVE. The true Glory of
God shines in the world. The
Light has won! The Eternal Light!
The Bright Morning Star! The
Light of the World!*

Rejoice!



WELCOME

Death is dead, and if the dead are raised—if Christ is risen from the dead!—brothers and sisters, let us feast and celebrate, for the dawning light of our inextinguishable and inexhaustible eternal pleasures have broken into the darkness, offering us a life of joy in Christ that cannot fade or rust or be stolen away! Today, delight in the resurrection joy of Christ and treasure it for all eternity.

Tony Reinke (2016) 'Have You Found What You Are Looking For?' in *Your Sorrow Will Turn to Joy*. Minneapolis: Desiring God, 97-103

Link to book [your-sorrow-will-turn-to-joy-en.pdf \(desiringgod.org\)](#)



Hymn of Praise



**See, what a morning, gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem,
Folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light
As the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,
Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man,
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!**

**See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
Will sound till He appears,
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!**

**One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty. Honor and
blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority!
And we are raised with Him,
Death is dead, love has won,
Christ has conquered;
And we shall reign with Him,
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!**

Responsive Reading

Psalm 118:1, 17-25

**Oh give thanks to the LORD, for
he is good; for his steadfast
love endures forever! . . .**

I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the
LORD. The LORD has disciplined
me severely, but he has not
given me over to death.

**Open to me the gates of
righteousness, that I may enter
through them and give thanks
to the LORD.**



Responsive Reading

Psalm 118:1, 17-25

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!



Resurrection Reading

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”



Resurrection Reading

Luke 24:1-12

⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.



Ministry of the Word

Luke 24:13-35

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?”



Ministry of the Word

Luke 24:13-35

¹⁹ ...And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”



Ministry of the Word

Luke 24:13-35

²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.



Ministry of the Word

Luke 24:13-35

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.



Ministry of the Word

Luke 24:13-35

³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.



Prayer of Blessing

For the joy that was set before you, Jesus, you went to the cross (Hebrews 12:2). No amount of pressure or beating could keep you from going to the cross for joy: to buy joy, to secure joy, and offer joy. The unquenchable joy of Easter was birthed in the greatest trauma and tragedy and evil the world has ever unleashed—the murder of the Son of God. And now nothing can steal this joy away. No power, no event, no enemy, can sequester the resurrection joy of Jesus Christ that burst out of the tomb with you. This long-expected resurrection joy you offered to your disciples and now you offer it to anyone who will ask, a “joy that is inexpressible and full of glory” (1 Peter 1:8).



Prayer of Blessing

Thank you, Jesus. I pray that you would pour out a spiritual flourishing upon us in every way, leading to a full and satisfying joy which nobody can take away. May your joy be a balm to our woes. May no worldly, empty pleasure ever take its place. May your joy always be full in us and point to your all-satisfying presence with us. In Jesus name, Amen.

Adapted from Tony Reinke "Have You Found What You Are Looking For?"

Go in peace and joy in believing

