

He Is Not Here - He Has Risen

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It was such a very bad day. It was a terrible day. It was the day they killed the Lord Jesus Christ on the Holy Cross. The priests and the elders were all jealous of the power the Lord Jesus Christ had and so they gathered together and found a way to kill Him. They convinced the people to yell 'Crucify Him' to the governor, Pontius Pilate.

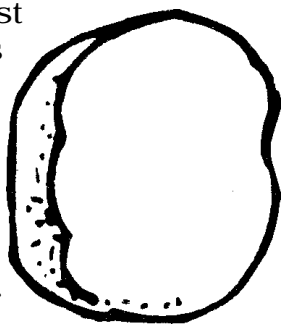
Our Savior, who healed the sick and gave food to the hungry, died on a Cross-between two thieves. The people made fun of Him and hurt Him but the Lord Jesus Christ cried out, ***"Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."*** (Luke 23:32) He endured so much pain from those who laughed at him and spit on Him, and then finally He died.

There was a man, a good man, named Joseph, from a town called Arimathea. Joseph courageously went to the governor and asked

to take our Lord's body down from the Holy Cross. Pilate gave his permission after he was sure that the Lord Jesus Christ was dead.

With Joseph was another man named Nicodemus. Both men were followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Nicodemus, who had previously met with the Lord Jesus, brought special spices and with Joseph's help, wrapped the Lord Jesus' body with the spices and white linen cloths.

Then they took Him to a garden where a brand new tomb had been made in the side of a rock. They placed the Lord Jesus Christ in this tomb and laid a large, heavy stone in front of it. There were women with them who saw where the Lord Jesus Christ was laid. But because it was almost the Sabbath day (the day of rest) they left the tomb and went home.



The next day the priests went to Pilate and asked that they place a guard in front of the tomb. They said, "Sir, we remember that while He was still alive that deceiver said, '**After three days I will rise again.**' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, His disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that He has been raised from the dead." (Matthew 28:2)

So Pilate gave the order and they secured the



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tomb by stringing a cord across the stone that was rolled over the entrance. The cord was sealed at each end by clay. Then the priests placed a guard there to make sure no one came near the tomb.

Then very early Sunday morning, while it was still dark out, Mary Magdalene and the other women who followed the Lord Jesus Christ went to the tomb and saw the stone had been removed from the entrance.

There had been a violent earthquake for an Angel of the Lord came down from Heaven and rolled back the stone from the tomb and sat on it. His appearance was like lightening and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so scared of him that they trembled and ran away.

The Angel told the women, ***"Do not be afraid for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said."*** (Matthew 17:5)



But Mary Magdalene was still not sure what happened. She ran to St Peter and St John and said, ***"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him."*** (John 20:2) So St Peter and St John

ran to the tomb and found it empty. The linen that the Lord Jesus Christ was wrapped in was lying there but the cloth that had been around His head was folded up by itself away from the rest of the linen.



Mary went back to the tomb and stood outside weeping. She saw a man she thought was the gardener but it was the Lord Jesus. He was alive. He told her He was going to return to the Father. Then He said to her to go to His disciples and tell them to wait for Him in Galilee. Mary was so happy to see the Lord Jesus Christ. He was not dead anymore. He had risen from the dead, just as He said He would. She went to tell the disciples but they did not believe her. (Mark 16:11)

Our Savior then appeared to two men who were on their way to the town of Emmaus. They did not recognize Him and all the way through their journey our Lord spoke to them about the prophecies that tell of the Holy Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. When they were finally at Emmaus and they sat down to eat, they recognized the Lord Jesus as He broke the bread for supper. They looked up and he had disappeared. The two immediately went back to Jerusalem and told the disciples that the Lord Jesus Christ was alive and all that had



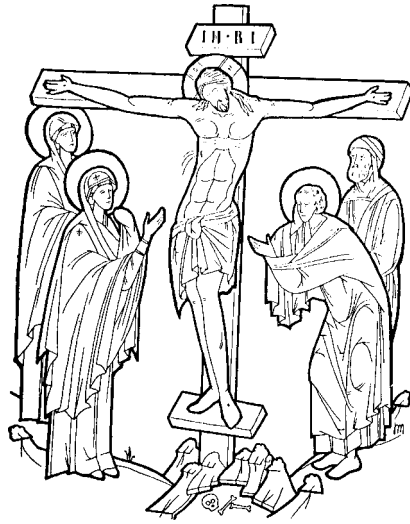
happened. (Luke 24:13-35)

This news that the Lord Jesus Christ was alive again after the terrible way in which He died was more than anyone could really believe. So finally our Lord went to His disciples and said, ***“Peace be with you.”*** They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He 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.’*** (Luke 24:37) Even after seeing the Lord Jesus themselves, they still couldn’t fully believe what they saw because of their great joy and amazement.

Then He began to explain that the Law of Moses and the Prophets had to be fulfilled and that He had to suffer and then rise from the dead on the third day. This is so that we can get forgiveness of our sins. You see, when the Lord Jesus Christ was born He knew that He would have to suffer and die and rise from the dead. This had to be done because evil and sin came into the world by the devil.

We call the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior because He came and saved us from the death of sin. Whenever we do bad things, like hurting other’s feelings or not saying the truth or disobeying our parents that is a sin. Because of this bad

behavior the Lord Jesus Christ died a very painful death. He had to carry all the sins of the world, including yours and mine, and take them up on the Holy Cross and die in our place.



But history continues because the Lord Jesus Christ did not just die, but He rose from the dead on the third day. When we read the story of the Holy Resurrection we are filled with great joy because we know that our Lord Jesus Christ has paid our debt in full. This is called grace.

Grace is getting a great gift without being worthy to get it. God loves us so much that He gave His only Son to die on the Holy Cross for our sake so that we may be able to live with Him in Heaven. We don't deserve the Lord Jesus Christ dying for us. We don't deserve that God should love us so much. Yet God did love us unworthy people and because of His grace we have hope that we will one day be with Him in His Kingdom.

Because of this hope and our knowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ is alive today and forever we have great joy. May the Lord's Holy Resurrection live in our lives and may we live always in His Resurrection.