



Jesus Has Risen

Luke 22b-23 (NIV)

“They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.”

Our picture shows the empty tomb. Jesus is not dead or buried. He is alive! We call this Jesus’ resurrection. Resurrection means coming back to life after death.

This is a Resurrection story.

Early on Easter Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women who are disciples of Jesus go to visit his tomb. They are amazed to find the cover stone rolled away. Two men shining like angels tell the women “He is not here. He is risen.”

Of course, the women hurry back to tell the other disciples. Peter runs to the tomb to see for himself.

Later in the day, a disciple named Cleopas and another disciple are walking seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They have time, so they talk about what has happened during the week. They remember the Palm Parade. They mourn Jesus’ death. They discuss the empty tomb that the women found that morning.

A third man starts to walk along with them and asks what they are talking about.

The disciples can hardly believe that there is anyone in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard about Jesus already. They can barely look at the stranger as they tell him this story:

“Jesus of Nazareth was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

Surprisingly, the stranger insists that they should believe the prophets and trust the Messiah. This stranger seems to know more than even the disciples.

When they arrive in Emmaus, Cleopas invites the stranger to have supper with them. So they eat together.

While they were at the table, the stranger took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

And suddenly they realize that this is not a stranger after all. This is Jesus! When they recognize him, he disappears.

They get up and go right back to Jerusalem. They tell the other disciples what happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

So the “Last Supper” on Thursday wouldn’t be their last meal with Jesus after all.

This story reminds us that Jesus stays with us and keeps teaching us and loving us, even when we don’t always recognize Him.

This story also reminds us that when we break bread together for Communion, the Risen Jesus is with us.

