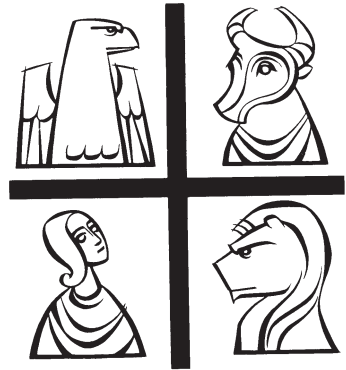


Reading Luke in Easter

Gospel of Luke 24:1–12



The Resurrection

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn,
the women 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.’
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 marvelling at what had happened.

Reflection

It is the women who have accompanied Jesus since Galilee (8:2-3) who are the first to witness Jesus’ resurrection. They see the empty tomb, they hear the message of the two men in dazzling apparel, they recall, and understand, the words of Jesus, and they go and tell the apostles. But their witness is dismissed. Only Peter goes and checks what they have said is true but he does not yet fully comprehend.

Luke writes knowing that Jesus has been raised from the dead and though Jesus does not actually appear in this passage he gives us signs. The two men link back to the transfiguration. Unlike the widow’s son at Nain or Jairus’ daughter Jesus is not just resuscitated back to life he is risen to a new life in glory. Luke acknowledges this by referring to him as the ‘Lord Jesus.’ Though this will be a common title used in the Acts of the Apostles this is its only appearance in the gospel.

- The women believe because of what they see and what they hear. But it also makes sense of something they have known but not fully understood before.
 - Are the words or the actions of faith more important to you?

Prayer

God of undying life,
by your mighty hand
you raised up Jesus from the grave
and appointed him judge of the living and the dead.

Bestow upon those baptised into his death
the power flowing from his resurrection,
that we may proclaim near and far
the pardon and peace you give us.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
firstborn from the dead,
who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

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