

A photograph of an ancient stone tomb entrance. A large, rounded stone is rolled away from the arched opening of the tomb. The scene is set against a dramatic sunset sky with warm orange and yellow light. The tomb is built into a rocky hillside with some greenery on the right.

# Easter People

Luke 24:36-53

*“In God, I trust. I shall not be afraid...  
For you have delivered my soul from  
death, yes, my feet from falling, that I  
may walk before God in the light of  
life.” (Psalm 56:11, 13)*

*“Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices. My flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to the grave, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy. At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

*(Psalm 16:8-11)*



## Luke 24:36-39

36 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. 38 And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

## Luke 24:40-43

40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate before them.

Jesus was NOT...

- A revived corpse

# Jesus was NOT...

- A revived corpse
- A delirious hallucination
- A ghostly apparition

# Jesus was NOT...

- A revived corpse
- A delirious hallucination
- A ghostly apparition
- A divinized hero



Jesus retains the disfiguring scars of his earthly suffering. The scars are important. Our victory comes through suffering. Jesus' way of peace requires self-sacrifice and a life given for the sake of others.

Jesus is not engaged in a merely spiritual mission. He has not come to rescue and remove us from the mess of human existence, to carry us off to some floaty, spiritual existence in the heavens. He has come to rescue and redeem the mess of human existence, to bring heaven's order, goodness, and beauty down to the earth.

We are Easter people and that means  
having hope for the world.

## Luke 24:44-46

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead..."

## Luke 24:47-49

47 "...And that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."



Jesus, in his grace...

- Grants us UNDERSTANDING

Jesus, in his grace...

- Grants us UNDERSTANDING
- Clothes us with POWER

Jesus, in his grace...

- Grants us UNDERSTANDING
- Clothes us with POWER
- Plants us in COMMUNITY

Jesus, in his grace...

- Grants us UNDERSTANDING
- Clothes us with POWER
- Plants us in COMMUNITY
- Sends us into MISSION

Jesus, in his grace...

- Grants us UNDERSTANDING
- Clothes us with POWER
- Plants us in COMMUNITY
- Sends us into MISSION
- Leaves us with his BLESSING having  
promised us his PRESENCE



We were designed for good, but damaged by evil. Jesus came to restore us for better. Now he sends us together to heal and one day everything will be set right. He will make all things new.

We are Easter people and we have hope for this mission.

## Luke 24:50-53

50 And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple blessing God.

We are Easter people and that gives  
hope, joy, and peace for today and  
even greater expectations for  
tomorrow!

Are we experiencing Jesus' abundant,  
hopeful, victorious resurrection life?  
Do we live as Easter people?







**“May the God of  
hope fill you with all  
joy and peace in  
believing, so that by  
the power of the  
Holy Spirit you may  
abound in hope.”  
*(Romans 15:13)***

