
Narrative Lectionary

Year 3 | The Year of Luke

Scripture Readings

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

..... **About the text**

THE WEEK BEGAN WITH a parade, continued with a meal, and ended with a horrendous and riveting public spectacle.

The parade had celebrated the climax of the Teacher's journey from the hinterlands to Jerusalem itself. Shouts of "Hallel!" and "Praise the King!" punctuated his progress into the city.

The meal, the ancient Passover feast, had ended with a strange gesture that united the Teacher's followers. No one was quite sure what he meant.

There was no mistaking the outcome of the spectacle. Blood, sweat, and cruelty: the Roman Way. Death was a sweet, sweet gift, and one not easily achieved.

Parade, meal, spectacle: all three are on the minds of the women who wend their way in darkness to his tomb.



Luke 24:1-12

1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in, they did not find the body. 4 While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5 The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. 6 Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." 8 Then they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

1 At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. 2 They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, 3 so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of the Master Jesus.

4 They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men, light cascading over them, stood there. 5 The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, "Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? 6 He is not here, but raised up. Remember how he told you when you were still back in Galilee 7 that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and in three days rise up?" 8 Then they remembered Jesus' words.

9 They left the tomb and broke the news of all this to the Eleven and the rest. 10 Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them kept telling these things to the apostles, 11 but the apostles didn't believe a word of it, thought they were making it all up.

12 But Peter jumped to his feet and ran to the tomb. He stooped to look in and saw a few grave clothes, that's all. He walked away puzzled, shaking his head.

Psalm 118:17, 21-24

17 I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. · ²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. · ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

17 I didn't die. I lived! And now I'm telling the world what GOD did.

21 Thank you for responding to me; you've truly become my salvation!

22 The stone the masons discarded as flawed is now the capstone! · ²³ This is GOD'S work. We rub our eyes—we can hardly believe it! · ²⁴ This is the very day GOD acted—let's celebrate and be festive!

The Narrative Lectionary presents the story of God's work in humanity through a single Gospel each year. This is Year 3: The Year of Luke.