

Easter Friday

The soldiers took Jesus to Golgotha, which means "Place of a Skull." There they gave him some wine mixed with a drug to ease the pain, but he refused to drink it.

They nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get his clothes. It was about nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed him to the cross. On it was a sign that told why he was nailed there. It read, "This is the King of the Jews."

A few hours later, Jesus died on the cross.

It was now the evening before the Sabbath, and the Jewish people were getting ready for that sacred day. A man named Joseph from Arimathea was brave enough to ask Pilate for the body of Jesus. . . .

Joseph bought a linen cloth and took the body down from the cross. He had it wrapped in the cloth, and he put it in a tomb that had been cut into solid rock. Then he rolled a big stone against the entrance to the tomb.

Mark 15.22-26, 42-43, 46

Easter Sunday

The first Easter is the story of how doubt and despair were overcome.

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices that they had prepared. When they found the stone rolled away from the entrance, they went in. But they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus . . .

When they returned, they told the eleven apostles and the others what had happened. The apostles thought it was all nonsense, and they would not believe.

But Peter ran to the tomb. And when he stooped down and looked in, he saw

only the burial clothes. Then he returned, wondering what had happened.

Luke 24.1-3, 9, 11-12

Doubt turned to belief when Jesus appeared.

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.

John 20.19-20

Easter Today

Paul saw the risen Lord Jesus and became his disciple. This is what he says about the new life that we too can experience.

You have been raised to life with Christ. Now set your heart on what is in heaven, where Christ rules at God's right side.

Think about what is up there, not about what is here on earth. You died, which means that your life is hidden with Christ, who sits beside God. Christ gives meaning to your life, and when he appears, you will also appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3.1-4

Easter Forever

*Easter is not only about a new life now.
There is a wonderful future promised
beyond death for all who believe the
Easter message.*

At the sound of the last trumpet the
dead will be raised. We will all be
changed, so that we will never die again.

Then the Scriptures will come true,

“Death has lost the battle!

Where is its victory?

Where is its sting?”

Thank God for letting our Lord Jesus
Christ give us the victory!

1 Corinthians 15.52, 54c-55, 57

A Prayer

Thank you God
that Jesus died for me
on the Cross.

Thank you God
that you brought him back to life.

Help me to believe
that these things happened.

Help me to look forward
to an eternal future of joy with you,
my living Lord.

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Forever

“I will be
with you always,
even until the end
of the world.”

Matthew 28:20