



**The Resurrection and
Ascension of Jesus and the
Coming
of the Holy Spirit**

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Where did Jesus go when he died?

- Creed:
 - “He descended into Hell”
 - “He descended to the dead”
- Hell (Sheol (Hebrew), Hades (Greek))
 - Place of damnation
 - Deprived of the image of God
 - These are not the same place (Lazarus, Luke 16)
- Did not destroy the Hell of damnation
- Freed the just people who had died
 - “Opened the gates of heaven” (CCC, 637)
 - “The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and live”
(John 5, Matthew 12, Romans 10, Ephesians 4)

The Resurrection of Jesus

- “Crowning truth of our faith in Christ” (CCC, 638)
- Confirmation of Christ’s teaching
- Definitive proof of divine authority
 - “I will destroy the temple, and in three days I will build it up again”
 - “I will die, and in three days I will rise again”

The Resurrection of Jesus

If Christ has not been raised,
then our proclamation has been in vain
and your faith has been in vain...

If Christ has not been raised,
your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.
Then those also who have died in Christ
have perished. (1 Cor 15)

The Resurrection of Jesus

We don't have to
understand,

but we have to
believe!

Resurrection: Did Jesus die?

- In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus sweat blood
- Hematidrosis: rare condition associated with a high degree of psychological stress
 - Anxiety
 - Chemical release
 - Break down of capillaries in the sweat glands
 - Small amounts of blood released
 - Sensitized his skin (fragile)

Resurrection: Did Jesus die?

- Scourging
 - Skin already sensitized
 - 39 or more lashes
 - Whip
 - Braided leather thongs
 - Metal balls woven in (bruises, contusions)
 - Pieces of sharp bone (cuts)
 - Some died before crucifixion
 - Hypovolemic shock

Resurrection: Did Jesus die?

- Crucifixion
 - Spikes, tapered, 5-7 inches long
 - Through wrists (median nerve)
 - Excruciating (from the cross)
 - Through feet
 - Arms stretched
 - Shoulders dislocated
 - Cause of death: asphyxiation*
 - Pericardial and pleural effusion*

Resurrection: Jesus died

Jesus died for your sins.



How does that make you feel?

Resurrection: Jesus died

- Why did Jesus die for our sins?

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 - Only one who was God and human could atone for the sins of humans

Resurrection: Jesus died

- Why did Jesus die for our sins?
 - He was doing the will of the Father
 - Only one who was God and human could atone for the sins of humans
 - Jesus loves us!!!

The Paschal Mystery

- Christ died for our sins
- Christ rose from the dead to open the way to new life
 - “So that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (Rom 6)

Resurrection: Did Jesus rise?

- The empty tomb
 - Differences in accounts*
 - Large stone rolled into slanted groove
 - Guards at the tomb
 - Women were the first to see the empty tomb
 - Summary*

Resurrection: Did Jesus rise?

The empty tomb

- Did Jesus' disciples steal his body?
- “The disciples had no motivation to steal the body and then die for a lie.” Strobel*

Resurrection: Did Jesus rise?

- Post-resurrection appearances
 - No eyewitnesses to Resurrection
 - Appeared to women, Peter (John 20, 1 Cor 15)
 - Disciples on road to Emmaus (Luke 24)
 - Apostles (without and then with Thomas) (John 20)
 - Mount of Olives, before Ascension (Luke 24)
 - Many others (Acts, 1 Cor 15)
 - Ate, drank, touched

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 - Many others (Acts of the Apostles, 1 Cor 15)
 - Ate, drank, touched
 - Dead People Don't Normally Do That!!!

Resurrection: Did Jesus rise?

- Post-resurrection appearances
 - Hallucinations are individual occurrences
 - One person can't induce a hallucination in another
 - Disciples were fearful and in despair, not expectant
 - Accounts do not have typical mythical tendencies
 - Disciples went to their death defending this, the cornerstone of their faith (our faith)

Ascension

- “So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.” (Mark 16)

Ascension

- Christ's body was "glorified"
 - To Mary Magdalene: Don't touch me, "I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God" (John 20)

Ascension

- Christ's body was "glorified"
 - When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. (Luke 24)

Ascension

- Christ's body was "glorified"
 - When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20)

Ascension

- Jesus descended from the Father
 - Incarnation
- Jesus ascended to the Father
 - Ascension
- He is seated at the right hand of the Father
- He has established his kingdom

Christ's Kingdom on Earth

- His Church
- The renewal of the world is underway through his church (CCC 670)
- It is incomplete
- Will be complete “with power and great glory” when Jesus returns to earth (CCC 671)
 - End of time

Christ's Kingdom on Earth

- Is the world being renewed?
 - Nazi Germany
 - Uganda
 - Rwanda
 - Iraq, Afghanistan
 - Capital punishment
 - Abortion
- NO!

Christ's Kingdom on Earth

- Is the world being renewed?
 - No more crucifixion
 - No more Christians to the lions
 - Religious freedom
 - Reaching out to the poor (least of my brethren)
 - Greater emphasis on spirituality
 - Religious, pop/new age
- YES!

Christ's Kingdom on Earth

- “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Christ's Kingdom on Earth

- How do we get there?

The Holy Spirit

- “No one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God” (1 Cor 2)
- The Holy Spirit “has spoken through the prophets” (Nicene Creed)
- “God’s Spirit, who reveals God, makes known to us Christ, his Word, his living Utterance, but the Spirit does not speak of himself.” (CCC 687)

The Holy Spirit

- God the Father
 - Creator
 - Judge
 - Father/mother
- God the Son – Jesus
 - God/human
 - Friend/brother
 - Teacher
 - Redeemer
 - King

The Holy Spirit

- God the Holy Spirit
 - How we “know” the Father and Son
 - How our faith becomes part of us
 - How we know right from wrong
 - How we are connected to all Christians

Pentecost

- Seven weeks after Easter
- Apostles in the upper room*
- “Are we there yet?”
 - **YES!**
- They were filled with the Holy Spirit
- They were prepared to die for Christ

The Holy Spirit

- Have you ever felt that you were filled with the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit

- Have you ever felt that you were filled with the Holy Spirit?
- Have you ever felt in-spired?
 - In awe of God's creation
 - To use your gifts for others and for the glory of God
 - To love our neighbour
 - To give unconditionally

The Easter Season

- Christ has died
- Christ has risen
- Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father
- The Holy Spirit came to dwell in us

- **NOW WE HAVE TO DO OUR PART!!!**

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit
we may be truly wise
and ever enjoy His consolations,
Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.