

EMMAUS AT ST MARY'S

Knowing Jesus – His sacrifice
His crucifixion, death & Resurrection

Jesus' Death & Resurrection – what's it all about?

The gospels are literally good news, but also tell the story of what happened, a very unique form of biography

Jesus – his name literally means ‘God saves’

Jesus taught that he must suffer and die

He called himself the Lamb of God

He said he was the way to the Father



The crucifixion of Jesus is an historical event that occurred approx. 33AD.



Jesus was:

- ❖ arrested, tried by the Jewish Sanhedrin
(by the Jewish leaders / chief priests in Jerusalem)
- ❖ sentenced by Pontius Pilate to be scourged
- ❖ handed over to be crucified
- ❖ executed by death upon a cross

Jesus' death by crucifixion represents a critical aspect of the doctrine of salvation in Christian theology

What is the meaning of the cross?

God made the world

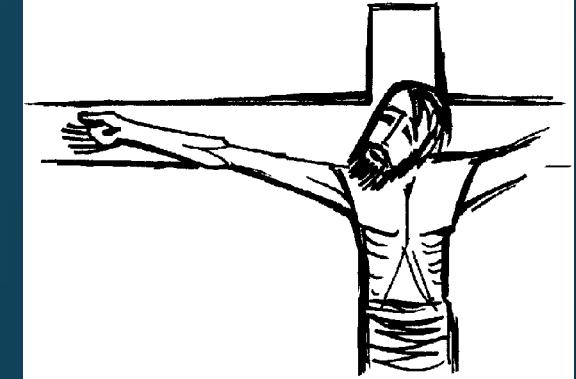
God gave human beings free will

There is chaos, death and suffering in the world

These intersect!

God wants us to be in relationship with him, so he does something about it

→ Jesus and the cross...



What is sin?

That which separates us from God

Pride and selfishness

But also undue lack of self-worth, refusing to see the child of God that is within you

Corporate sin – unjust systems, exploitation, greed

... but also

Where does brokenness fit in?

Suffering, pain, illness

Still needs redeeming, healing, restoration



Christians believe that God is *just* and *fair* but also *loving* and *merciful*.

God doesn't let evil go undealt with, nor does he not want to heal us and restore us to right relationship with him.

The Creed teaches us that when died he descended into hell – in other words he was separated from God.

Hell literally means 'separation from God'



For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

First Council of Nicaea in 325



I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

The Apostles' Creed - AD 390, but thought to originate before the Council of Nicaea.

The word 'creed' comes from the Latin word credo, meaning 'I believe and trust'.

Jesus – the Saviour who atones

At-one-ment

On the cross Jesus identifies with our human predicament and takes our place
As a friend betrayed, Jesus deals with all that destroys relationships and offers restoration.

In his death, Jesus makes a new covenant between God and his people.

In his death, Jesus pays the penalty for sin.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

In the cross, Jesus triumphs over all the powers of sin and evil.

In the cross, Jesus identifies with all the pain and suffering in the world.

On the cross, Jesus sets an example of perfect love

→ All these ideas are in the bible!



Trying to get our heads around it all!

Take a moment to think about the different understandings:

sacrificial lamb ransom reconciler

victor over death exemplar

→ What does Jesus' death mean to you?



But that's not the end of the story...

Birth

Life

Death

...

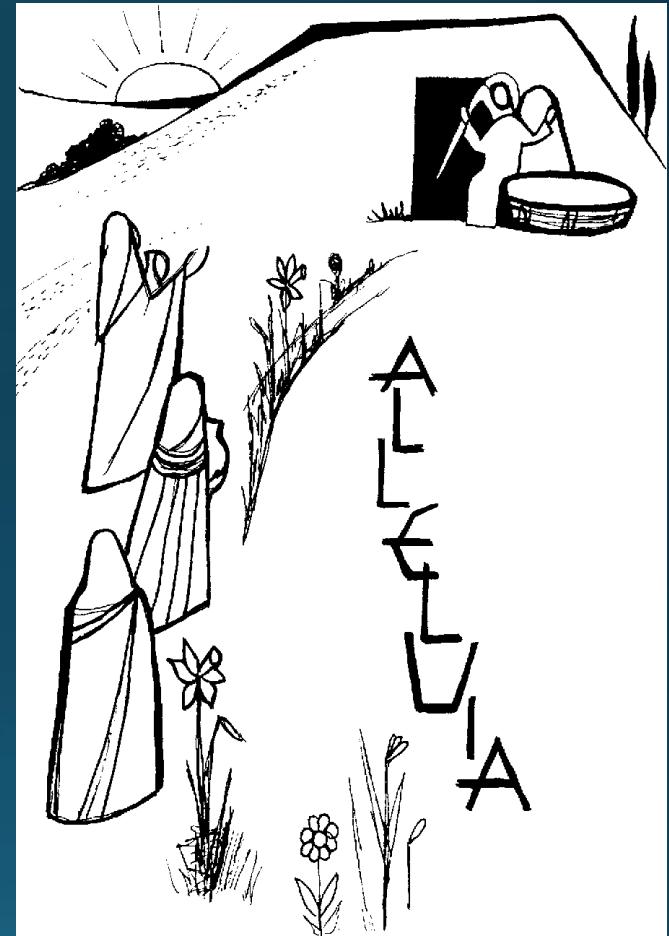
Resurrection!

Ascension!



The Resurrection – what happened?

- ❖ It was the third day after Jesus' death
- ❖ Various women went to the tomb
- ❖ The tomb was found empty
- ❖ Jesus appeared to people after his death
- ❖ They felt his presence and recognised him



Evidence for the resurrection



Empty tomb, despite the guards

If the authorities took it, why did they not produce it when the
disciples claimed he was risen

The disciples were, despite all he said, not expecting it

Many disciples died for believing in the resurrection – would they
accept cruel martyrdom for what they knew to be a lie?

They witnessed and told in great detail all their experiences, even
when they didn't necessarily understand them all – eating,
drinking, walking through walls

They were demoralized and defeated, denied they knew him – a few
days later they were transformed into confident witnesses

The resurrection – what does it mean? Why is it necessary?

Is the complete story of salvation – or else the cross was in vain

Shows Jesus was both human and God

We can know the risen Christ, still alive today

Death has been conquered

Jesus has prepared a special place for us

By accepting he took our place, we too are raised to eternal life with and in Christ

Eternal life begins now, when we accept Jesus into our life

We respond to his gift of life with our own lives, in love and service

We too are called to witness to the resurrection



The Resurrection today

What does the resurrection mean to you?

How and where do you recognise Christ today?



The Collect for Easter Day

**Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection
of your Son overcame
the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. Amen.**

