

WEEK OF APRIL 5, 2026

**5-Day Devotional  
based on Sunday's message:**



**EASTER SUNDAY**

HE IS RISEN!

*John 20:1-23*

Provided by



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## John 20:1-23

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn’t go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— for until then they still hadn’t understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home. Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her. “Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?” She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.” “Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”). “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message. That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

# Day 1: The Stone is Rolled Away

## Devotional

When Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb that first Easter morning, she discovered something extraordinary, the stone had been rolled away. This wasn't just a physical barrier removed, but it represented the removal of every obstacle between us and God. The empty tomb wasn't merely evidence that Jesus had risen, but an invitation into something entirely new. For too long, we've lived behind stones of our own, barriers of guilt, shame, fear, and doubt that keep us from experiencing the fullness of God's love. But, just as that massive stone couldn't contain our Savior, nothing can contain the power of His resurrection in your life today. The rolled-away stone reminds us that God doesn't just fulfill His promises and leave us wondering what's next. He opens doors, removes barriers, and invites us to step into the new life He's prepared. What stones in your life need to be rolled away? What barriers have you accepted as permanent that God wants to remove?

## Bible Verse

'Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.' - John 20:1

## Reflection Question

What 'stones' in your life, whether guilt, fear, or doubt, do you need to trust God to roll away?

## Quote

The empty tomb is not just proof of [Jesus being the Messiah]. It's now an invitation.

## Prayer

Lord, thank You for rolling away the stone and removing every barrier between us. Help me trust You to remove the obstacles in my life that keep me from experiencing Your fullness. Amen.

# Day 2: Justice Satisfied, Debt Paid

## Devotional

Good Friday looked like defeat. An innocent man hung on a cross, bearing torture He didn't deserve. But, in that moment of apparent failure, the greatest transaction in history took place. Every sin you've committed, past, present, and future, was placed on Jesus' shoulders. The resurrection confirms that this sacrifice was accepted. God's justice wasn't ignored or overlooked, but was fully satisfied in Christ. The debt you could never pay has been marked 'paid in full.' Death, which once held power over humanity, has been defeated once and for all. This isn't just theological truth, but personal reality. You don't have to live under the weight of guilt anymore. You don't have to fear that your mistakes disqualify you from God's love. The resurrection declares that your sin debt is completely erased, and death has lost its sting in your life. Today, you can walk in the freedom of knowing that God's wrath was poured out on Christ, not on you. His justice is satisfied, and His love is freely given.

## Bible Verse

'That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said.' - John 20:19

'You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross' - Colossians 2:13-14

## Reflection Question

How does knowing your sin debt is 'paid in full' change the way you approach God today?

## Quote

For God, justice is satisfied in the death and resurrection of Christ. His wrath is poured out on Christ and not on you and not on me.

## Prayer

Father, thank You that Your justice was satisfied in Christ and that my debt is paid in full. Help me live in the freedom of Your complete forgiveness. Amen.

# Day 3: The Wait is Over

## Devotional

For centuries, God's people waited for the Messiah. They watched for signs, clung to promises, and hoped for deliverance. That wait shaped their entire identity. They were a people in anticipation, looking forward to what God would do. But, the wait is over. It ended 2,000 years ago when Jesus walked out of that tomb. The anticipation has been satisfied, the promise fulfilled. Yet many of us still live as if we're waiting for something that has already happened. The question is no longer 'Will God send a Savior?' or 'Will He defeat sin and death?' These things are accomplished facts. The real question now is 'What will I do now that He has?' What we wait for shapes us, but what we do after it arrives defines us. You're no longer defined by anticipation but by response. You're no longer shaped by what's coming but by what's already been done. The resurrection isn't just a future hope, but a present reality that should transform how you live today. Step out of the waiting room and into the life Christ has opened for you.

## Bible Verse

'As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!' - John 20:20

'For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.' - 2 Corinthians 6:2

## Reflection Question

In what areas of your life are you still 'waiting' instead of living in the reality of what Christ has already accomplished?

## Quote

Friends, the wait is over. We celebrate [Jesus' Resurrection] today. But it was over 2,000 years ago. The anticipation is satisfied.

## Prayer

Lord, help me stop living in anticipation of what You've already done and start living in the reality of Your resurrection power today. Amen.

# Day 4: Step Into Freedom

## Devotional

The resurrection didn't just prove Jesus was who He said He was. It opened a door to an entirely new way of living. Before Christ, there was only ambiguity and hopelessness. But now, because of the empty tomb, you have access to life and life abundantly. This isn't just about eternal life someday, but about transformed life today. You're no longer dead to sin but alive in Christ. You don't have to live in the brokenness and bondage that once defined you. The resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to raise you from whatever has been holding you down. God invites you to step into the life He has opened, a life of freedom, reconciliation, and peace with your Heavenly Father. This means leaving behind the old patterns, the old fears, and the old limitations. It means embracing the truth that there is not a thing, past, present, or future, hindering you from the hands of Jesus. Today is your opportunity to step courageously into the gospel life. Not tomorrow, not when you feel more ready, but right now. The door is open, the invitation is extended, and the power is available.

## Bible Verse

'We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.' - Romans 6:6-7  
'So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.' - John 8:36

## Reflection Question

What specific area of your life needs you to 'step into freedom' rather than remaining in old patterns of thinking or living?

## Quote

Step into the life he has opened for you. Not a life of brokenness, not a life of sin, but a life of freedom. A life that is reconciled to your Heavenly Father.

## Prayer

Jesus, thank You for opening the door to new life. Give me courage to step into the freedom You've provided and leave behind what has held me back. Amen.

# Day 5: Living the Resurrection Story

## Devotional

The resurrection isn't the end of the story, it's where the rest of the story begins. Just as God fulfilled His promise through Christ's death and resurrection, He now invites you to live in that fulfilled promise. Your life becomes part of the continuing resurrection story. Every day you choose to trust in Christ's love and grace, you're writing another chapter. Every time you live courageously through the gospel, you're demonstrating resurrection power. Every moment you choose peace over anxiety, forgiveness over bitterness, and hope over despair, you're proving that He lives. This is why Easter isn't just an annual celebration, but a daily reality. You get to live each day knowing that your Lord and Savior lives, and because of Him, you can live in peace with God. You can celebrate as if it were 'Super Bowl Sunday of the church because the victory has been won. The story continues through you. How will you live today in light of the resurrection? How will your choices reflect the reality that death is defeated and new life is yours? Your response to the resurrection doesn't just affect you, but becomes part of God's ongoing story of redemption in the world.

## Bible Verse

'Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." - John 20:22  
'My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.' - Galatians 2:20

## Reflection Question

How can your daily choices and actions become a living testimony to the resurrection power of Christ?

## Quote

Because the story now continues. From what we just read, our Lord and Savior lives... And because of him, we can live in peace with our God.

## Prayer

Holy Spirit, fill me with resurrection power so that my life becomes a continuing chapter of Your story. Help me live each day as proof that Jesus lives. Amen.