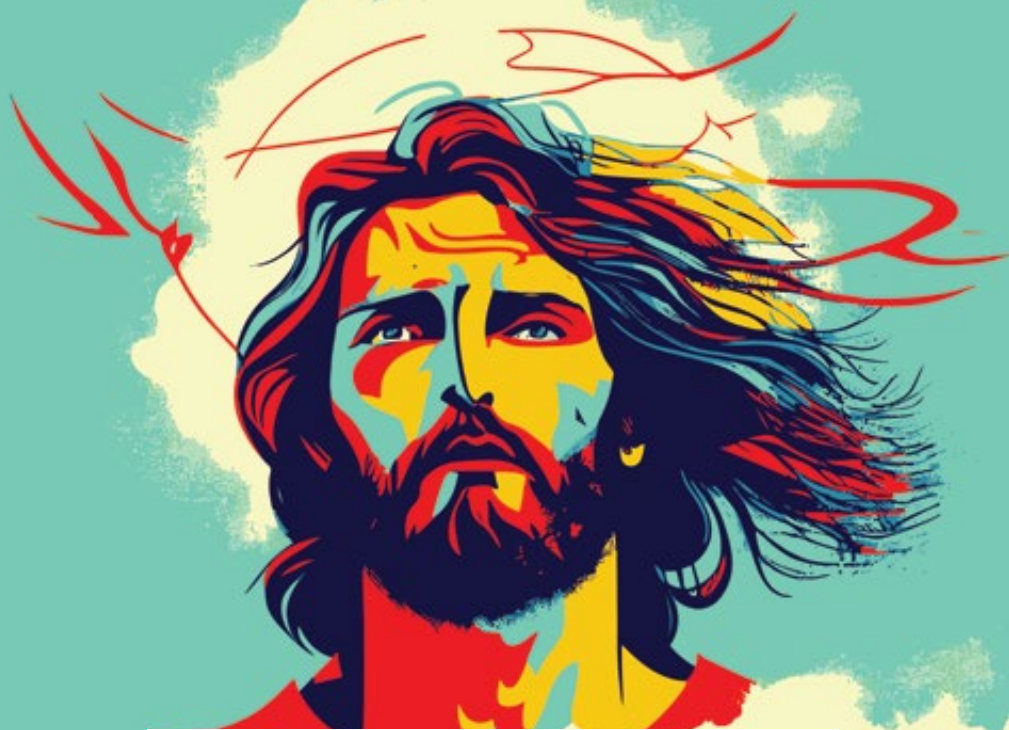


WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD



Devotions for the Easter Season

Carol Geisler

FEAR AND JOY

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

MATTHEW 28:9

We joyfully celebrate Jesus’ resurrection, but the morning on which he rose from the dead was also a day of fear. As Mary Magdalene and the other Mary approached Jesus’ tomb, there was an earthquake as an angel rolled back the stone from the tomb’s entrance. The guards collapsed in fear, and the angel’s first words were not “He is risen” but “Do not be afraid” (Matthew 28:5). As the women ran “with fear and great joy” to tell the disciples what they had seen, Jesus met them on the road. No longer afraid, they touched his nail-scarred feet and worshiped him.

We hurry through life, often stirred up by “fear and great joy” (Matthew 28:8). Through faith in Jesus, we know the joy of salvation, but at the same time, we are anxious about so many things. The crucified and risen Savior meets us where we are, speaking words of hope through the promises of his Word. He fills us with the peace of his forgiveness and the endless joy of his love. Then we are ready to run and share the good news: Jesus is alive!

**Jesus, when I am afraid, fill me with your peace and joy.
Amen.**

Read Matthew 28:1-10.

THE ANSWER

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

JOHN 20:15

Mary Magdalene stood at Jesus’ tomb and wept, overwhelmed by grief and the events of recent days. Jesus was dead. Mary had watched as his body was sealed in a tomb. Now that tomb was empty, and his body was missing. An angel at the tomb asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” Then Jesus, as yet unrecognized, asked the same question and added, “Whom are you looking for?” Jesus knew the answer. He was and is the answer, and hearing him call her name, Mary also knew. The answer became her announcement: “I have seen the Lord!” (John 20:18)

“Why are you weeping?” No one needs to ask the question as we stand beside a hospital bed, attend a graveside service or visit a cemetery. Yet, even as we grieve, the answer to our sorrow is written by faith on our hearts: Jesus has risen! Mary Magdalene’s grief vanished as she stood in the presence of her risen Lord. When Jesus returns on the Last Day, we will be raised bodily to life as he was raised. We will have all the answers we need as Jesus wipes away every tear from our eyes.

Risen Lord, answer my questions and fears through your holy Word. Amen.

Read John 20:1-18.

WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD

After Easter, the risen Lord appeared 12 times to his followers. In his living presence, doubt and fear gave way to sight and touch and belief. These devotions follow the experiences of those who were the chosen witnesses, believers who were then sent out—as we are sent—to testify to good news that is absolute fact: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition*, copyright © 2021 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

By Carol Geisler. Design by Jamie Wyatt. Cover image: AdobeStock. © 2025 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

