

Sunday 18th April 2021

Third Sunday of Easter

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

In our Gospel reading today, we hear of another appearance of the risen Christ to his followers.

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Luke (Luke 24: 36b-48)

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Perhaps it isn't surprising that Jesus's disciples were "startled and terrified" when he suddenly appeared, despite his greeting of peace! To meet someone whom we know has died would be a huge shock for any of us.

Jesus wants his friends to truly believe in his resurrection, but these are the disciples who have often found it difficult to understand what Jesus has called "heavenly things" and have tended to have their minds firmly fixed on "earthly things" - as most of us do. They still needed some persuading, so Jesus offered them another look at the wounds of crucifixion on his hands and feet and invited them to touch him - flesh, bones and all!

They then watched Jesus eat a piece of fish, as he hoped to prove beyond any doubt that his resurrection body was not some ghostly image, but real. It was, however, undoubtedly different - Jesus seemed to be able to appear and disappear through locked doors and, on several occasions, those who knew him really well failed to recognise him. I think any of us would have found this phenomenon hard to understand if we had been there - and we still do! Like these first disciples, we need to try and open our hearts and minds to the possibilities of eternity, rather than being content with searching for earthly explanations.

Jesus went on to remind his disciples about how his life, death and resurrection had happened in fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy, but he invited them to look forward, as well as back, because he wanted them to be witnesses of all that had happened and to proclaim his love and forgiveness to the whole world. What a task - and one in which, as present-day disciples, we have the privilege of being included!

A prayer for this week:

Father God, whose Son Jesus Christ came to teach us about your love, through his life, death and resurrection; help us to open our hearts and minds to his teaching and to be ready to tell others about your forgiveness and love. Amen.

Please scroll down for some more Eastertide activities and colouring pages:

Easter Word Search

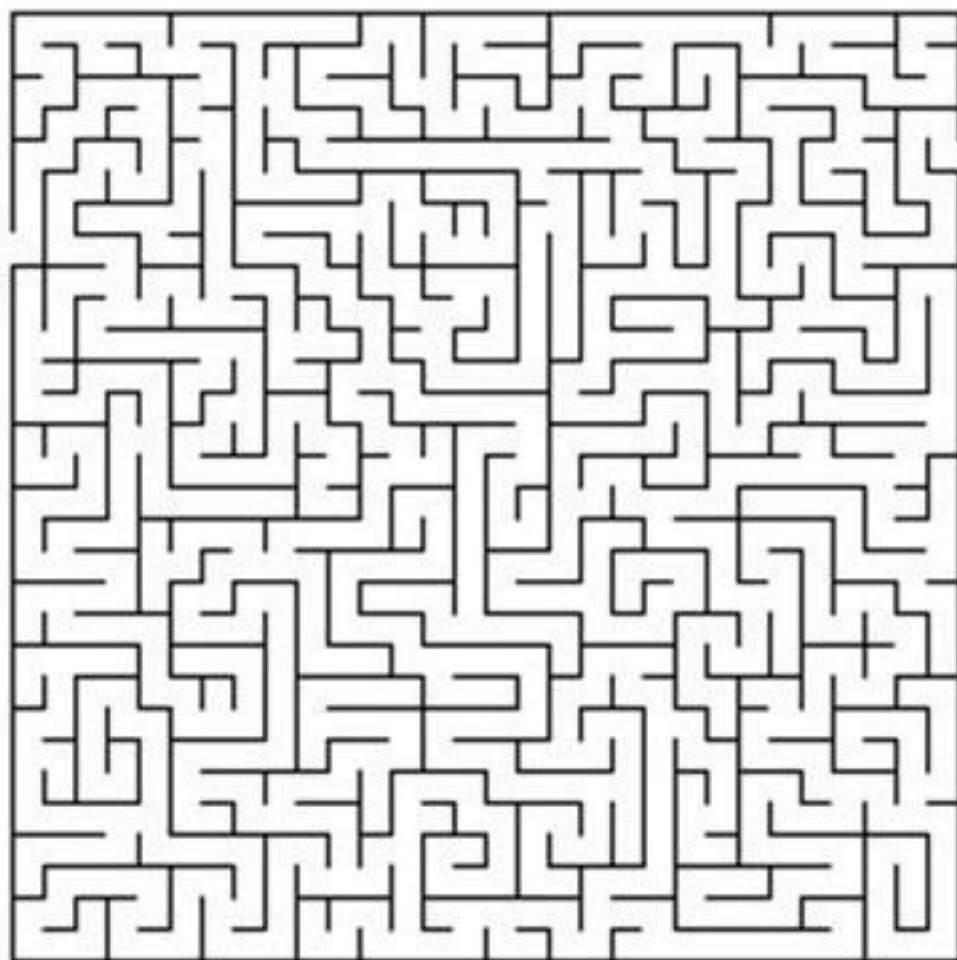
FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS

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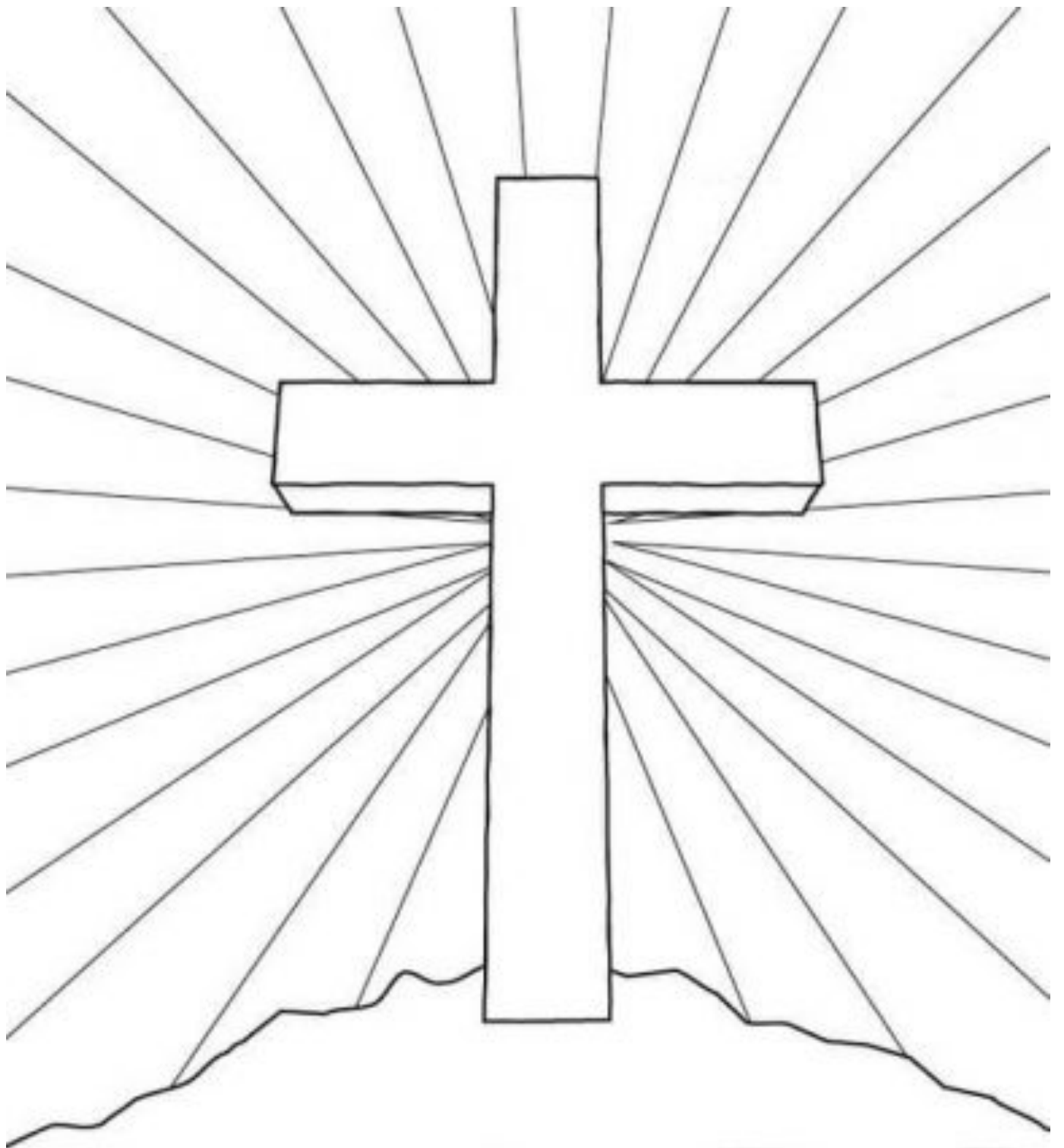
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ARREST	EASTER	PILATE	SINLESS
BETRAYAL	GETHSEMANE	PRAYER	SOLDIER
BREAD	GOD	RESURRECTION	STONE
CAIAPHAS	GOLGOTHA	RISEN	SUPPER
CROSS	GOSPEL	ROBBERS	TEMPLE
CROWN	JESUS	ROBE	TOMB
CRUCIFIED	LAMB	SACRIFICE	TRIAL
			WINE

Easter

Help the dove get to the cross







Jesus is Alive!

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