



### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And 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, dead, and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.** Amen.

### **The Resurrection Story**

*Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.*

*When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body."*

Mark 16:1–6 (NLT)

### **The Events of the First Easter**

#### **FRIDAY AFTERNOON—3 P.M.—GOLGOTHA**

What we know:

- Jewish Sabbath begins at sundown (6 p.m.).
- Burials were forbidden by Jewish law on the Sabbath.
- Jesus died at 3 p.m., and the two thieves crucified with Jesus died around 4 p.m., leaving just two hours to remove the bodies from the crosses before sundown.

- John was the only disciple present at the crucifixion, and there is no record of any of Jesus' 11 remaining disciples present at his burial.
- Joseph of Arimathea petitioned Pontius Pilate (Roman Governor) for permission to claim Jesus' body and bury him in his own family tomb.

## **SATURDAY—THE SECOND DAY**

What we know:

- Pontius Pilate ordered Roman soldiers to be stationed at the tomb in order to prevent anyone from stealing Jesus' body.
- The disciples were hiding behind locked doors in an upper room somewhere in Jerusalem.

## **SUNDAY MORNING—SUNRISE—THE THIRD DAY**

What we know:

- Mary Magdalene and two other women went to the tomb to complete the burial ritual.
- The stone sealing the tomb was rolled away.
- The tomb was empty.
- An angel appeared telling the women, *"He isn't here. He has risen from the dead."*

## **AN UNBELIEVABLE STORY**

- **MARK 16:1–8**—The women learned that Jesus had been raised, but they were so afraid they didn't tell anyone.
- **MATTHEW 28:16–17**—After the disciples saw Jesus alive, *"some of them doubted."*
- **LUKE 24:8–11**—Mary and the other women rushed back to tell the disciples what they had seen, *"but the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it."*
- **JOHN 20:24–29**—Thomas: *"I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."*

## **An Invitation and Prayer**

*Jesus, I want to have a real faith in you. Thank you for your sacrifice for me and for the resurrection by which you conquered evil, hate, sin and death. Today I want to become a true believer in you and trust you as my Savior. I want to follow your example and accept your gift of grace. Help me to hold onto your promises when times are tough. Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me forever. Amen.*