

Resurrection of the Lord – April 5, 2026

Easter Sunrise Service

John 20:1–18

“Saw and Believed”

1. I want to have the faith of Mary Magdalene.
 - a. An honest faith. An up and down faith.
 - b. A faith that is torn apart when faced with tragedy and rebuilt by miraculous grace.
 - c. A faith that is willing to let things come together slowly into focus.
 - d. I want to have the faith of Mary Magdalene.
 - e. A faith that makes her want to remember and mourn.
 - f. A faith that unsuccessfully tries to cling to the past, but which still knows she has to move into the future, into the unknown.
 - g. A faith that sees and believes, in spite of all logical evidence to the contrary.
 - h. A faith that makes her want to run to tell the world the story of resurrection.
2. I want to have the faith of Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved.
 - a. A faith that is drowning in fear but is not dead.
 - b. A faith that can still be surprised by news of God at work.
 - c. A faith that makes one run to a place of pain hoping to find healing.
 - d. A faith that somehow still doesn't get it. Not yet, at least.
 - e. A faith that rings in their ears as they walk silently back into hiding.
3. I want to have the faith of the disciples who stayed behind hiding in the house, scared.
 - a. A faith that is confused.
 - b. A faith that gets things second hand and struggles to believe.
 - c. A faith that puts one in danger of getting the same punishment as Jesus.
 - d. A faith that dares to hang on to hope in spite of it all.
 - e. I want to have the faith of disciples who are grieving and trying to remember all that Jesus had told them, trying to understand it and make sense of things.
 - f. A faith that knows we will see better days, but we just don't know when.
4. I want to have the faith of those who centuries later have NOT seen and yet have believed.
 - a. Who envision a blooming flower where all others see a withering vine.
 - b. Who feel hope when all others move on to despair.
 - c. Who are surrounded by death and refuse to give up on life.
5. I want to have a faith that sees and believes.
 - a. And that's it. I just want to see. Is that too much to ask?
 - b. I want to see the examples of God's power.
 - c. But is faith that sees really faith? Isn't it supposed to be blind?
 - d. Well, we need to see SOMETHING in order to keep believing.
 - e. Maybe not see the WHOLE truth, but enough truth that our human heart can handle.
 - f. Even if it's through eyes blurry with tears, like with Mary Magdalene.
 - g. Even if it's through the eyes of the disciples seeing an empty tomb and trying to understand resurrection second hand.
6. I want a faith that sees and believes, but I also know what I'm asking for.
 - a. I know that means being on a journey where I won't always see.

- b. Because that's just the deal – faith is about trusting when we don't quite see the whole picture.
- c. I want an Easter faith for today,
 - i. when injustice makes me question if Jesus is still with us,
 - ii. but when acts of courage by my neighbors show me that Jesus is very much among us.
- d. I want an Easter faith for today,
 - i. when we try to be a relevant church and we try new bells and whistles to attract new people,
 - ii. but we're reminded that it's not what we do that matters but what the Spirit does through us.
- e. I want an Easter faith for today,
 - i. when people bitterly dismiss “all Christians” because they see them behave in this way or that,
 - ii. but a faith which leads us to stand with people in the margins, unbothered by the smears, and trying to channel God's love in our everyday life.
- f. I want an Easter faith for today,
 - i. And if maybe the Spirit uses my efforts, our efforts, to help others question injustice and sin and despair and death itself,
 - ii. then maybe we'll get to have the faith of Mary Magdalene,
 - iii. so that anyone who hears us will doubt us and wonder whether we've lost our mind,
 - iv. but will also ponder whether it is true that the resurrection of Jesus means the whole story of humanity has changed for good.
- 7. I want to have the faith of Mary Magdalene, and her courage to share it.

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/vigil-of-easter-3/commentary-on-john-201-18-21>