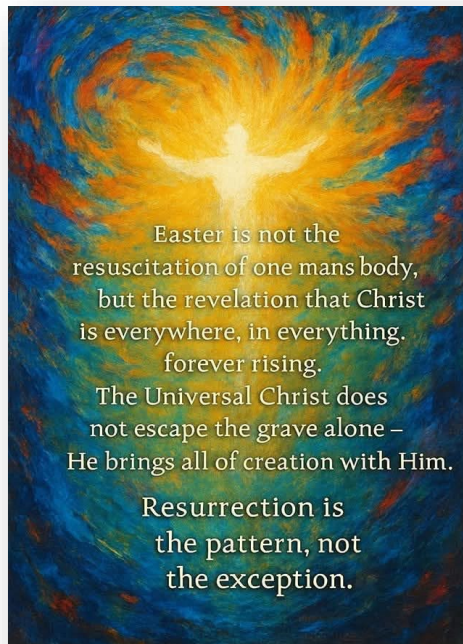


## WEEK TWO: APRIL 13-17 (OUR RESURRECTION STORIES)

This is a week to revisit the ancient Easter stories with new eyes. Ignatius invites us into a special time of colloquy during the Easter Season where we read a familiar story but engage with its deeper, personal meaning through a reflective process called **SPIRITUAL INQUIRY**. You will be invited to reflect on and then journal about the few questions that follow the scripture as well as any other insights that arise in you. Simply put, the spiritual inquiry process can lead us into any area or question when mystery belies simply answers. Trust that the very act of asking these questions can reveal grace-filled insights into your life at this moment. The following quote from Richard Rohr about resurrection can be a helpful framework for our exercises this week.



Here are five Resurrection Stories for our **SPIRITUAL INQUIRY PROCESS** this week. We have included both a traditional religious image and alternative one for each story.



### TRANSLATING TIMELESS STORIES

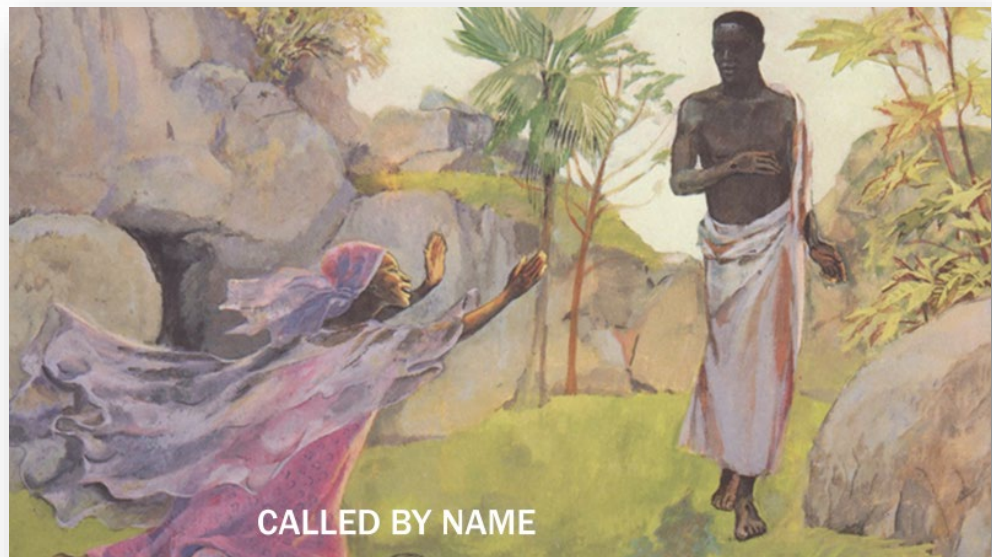


- MARY AND THE GARDNER
- DOUBTING THOMAS
- ROAD TO EMMAUS
- RETURNING TO NORMAL
- PENTECOST

- Called by name
- Seeing is believing
- Blinded by grief
- Naked before God
- Drunk or Sober

DAY ONE/MONDAY

MARY AT THE TOMB/MARY & THE GARDNER



### **Mary Magdalene at the Tomb (John 20:1-18)**

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance....

<sup>11</sup> As Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

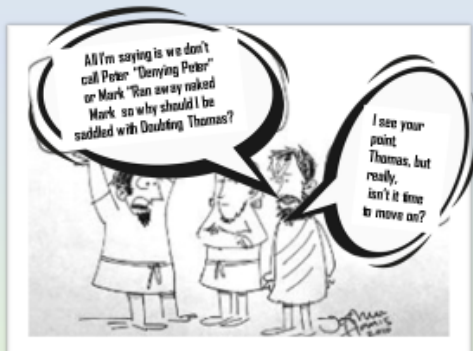
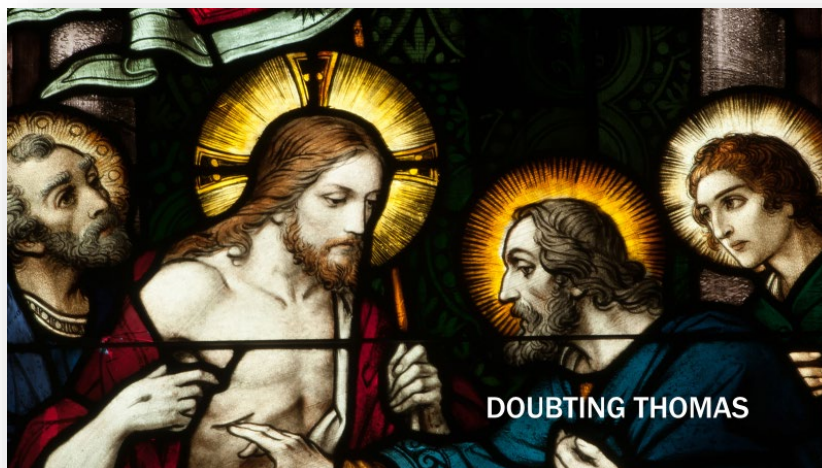
<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

### **SPIRITUAL INQUIRY**

Choose any one of the following questions for a time of reflection;  
Consider journaling your response.

- 1) Place yourself in the emotional energy of this scene. Have you ever been so distraught that you lost perspective on reality?**
- 2) Have you ever encountered a situation where circumstances swung from desolation to consolation in just a short moment? What made the difference?**
- 3) Reflect on the words of Jesus to Mary, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father." How/does this part of the story raise any questions or feelings for you? Could this encounter offer you any insight into the nature of life beyond the grave?**

DAY TWO/TUESDAY  
DOUBTING THOMAS



**Jesus Appears to Thomas (John 20:24-29)**

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them in the Upper Room. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

### **SPIRITUAL INQUIRY**

Choose any one of the following questions for a time of reflection;  
Consider journaling your response.

- 1) Place yourself in the emotional energy of this scene. How/does Thomas' dilemma speak to you?**
- 2) This story echoes throughout history with the term, "Doubting Thomas." Be honest and courageous about naming your own doubts about faith and belief.**
- 3) Consider that Jesus intentionally chose disciples with every kind of human doubt and flaw... how/could that fact create a sense of spiritual freedom in regarding your own personality strengths and shortcomings?**

**DAY THREE/WEDNESDAY**  
**ROAD TO EMMAUS**



**On the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35)**

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>a</sup> from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

<sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

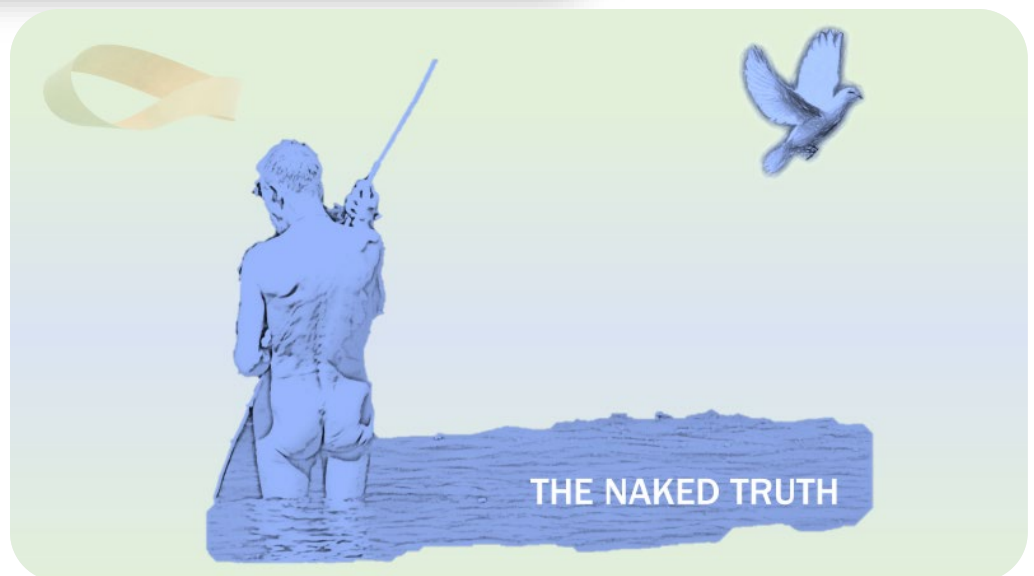
## SPIRITUAL INQUIRY

Choose any one of the following questions for a time of reflection;  
Consider journaling your response.

- 1) Place yourself in the emotional energy of this scene with the disciples on the road. How/do you relate to their response to grief?
- 2) This story invites us to consider how grief can blind us. Consider a time when your own experience of loss blinded you to 'normal reality.'
- 3) Consider what may have helped to 'open your eyes' to a side of reality that you were unable to see in the wake of grief?

### DAY FOUR/THURSDAY

### RETURNING TO "NORMAL"



## Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish (John 21:1-10)

**21** Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.<sup>[a]</sup> It happened this way: <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[b]</sup>), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.<sup>5</sup> He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered.

<sup>6</sup> He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

<sup>7</sup> Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. <sup>8</sup> The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>9</sup> When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

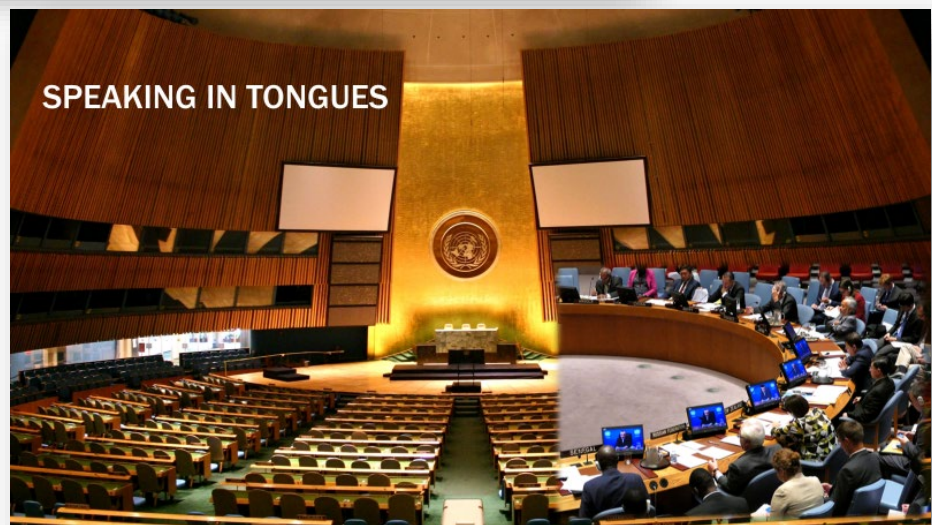
<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

### SPIRITUAL INQUIRY

Choose any one of the following questions for a time of reflection;  
Consider journaling your response.

- 1) Place yourself in the emotional energy of this scene with the disciples at the lake. How/do you relate to their desire to 'get back to normal' after a tragic loss?**
- 2) How/do you relate to Peter's response to the situation? When/have you ever encountered a time when you were surprised by a miracle?**
- 3) Consider how Jesus invited his friends to something as ordinary as a beach breakfast. How/does that image offer you an insight into how God delights in being present in the mundane events of life?**

**DAY FIVE/FRIDAY  
PENTECOST**



**The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost (Acts, Chapter 2)**

**2** When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. (Recall that they had been hold up in this place for fear of their own lives after the crucifixion).

**2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that

separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues<sup>ᵇ</sup> as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,<sup>ᵇ</sup> <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

<sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

### **SPIRITUAL INQUIRY**

Choose any one of the following questions for a time of reflection;  
Consider journaling your response.

- 1) Place yourself in the emotional energy of this scene with the disciples in the Upper Room of Pentecost. How/do you relate to amazing shift that occurred from fear to hope in this story?**
- 2) This story speaks of the elusive nature of "spirit" as wind, energy, fire and speech. Can you recall a time when you suddenly were overwhelmed with courage and 'spoke in a tongue that came from somewhere beyond'?**
- 3) How might the same 'Holy Spirit' be moving and speaking in your life today and in the larger world?**