

EASTER: RESURRECTION RIPPLES

John 20:1–10, 24–29 (Romans 6:4; 1 Peter 1:3–5)

Dave Geldart | April 5, 2026 | Tru Community Church

1. INTRO — THE LOCKED ROOM

a. [1] Good morning — and Happy Easter.

i. He is risen. (He is risen indeed.)

b. There's a detail in the Easter story I want to begin with this morning — it's not the one you'd expect.

i. It's not the empty tomb.

ii. It's not the folded grave clothes.

iii. It's not even the angels.

iv. It's a locked door.

c. On the evening of the first Easter Sunday:

i. The women had already found the empty tomb that morning

ii. Mary had already encountered the risen Jesus face to face

iii. Peter and John had already stood inside the empty tomb

iv. And yet — by that evening — the disciples were still gathered behind locked doors

v. 'For fear,' John says

d. They had heard the news. But the news hadn't reached their hearts yet.

e. Is that familiar?

i. Maybe Easter has always felt slightly out of reach

ii. Or maybe it used to feel real, and somewhere along the way the doors got locked again

1. Grief. Regret. Doubt.

2. That low-grade sense that something is sealed shut and won't move

iii. Easter comes every year

iv. — and part of you wonders if anything is actually going to change

f. I want to talk to you this morning.

i. Because the locked door is exactly where the risen Jesus shows up.

ii. And here's the big idea for this morning:

iii. [2] The resurrection of Jesus started a ripple of new creation that is still moving — and it's headed straight for you.

2. SETTING THE SCENE

a. To understand what Sunday means, we have to remember Friday.

b. Jesus had been crucified.

i. Just before He died, He said something many people misunderstood: 'It is finished.'

ii. **Not 'I am finished' — but IT IS Finished as in: completed. Accomplished.**

iii. He was not a victim. He was not trapped.

iv. He laid down His life on purpose.

v. Mission accomplished!

c. But when He died, the disciples didn't understand it that way.

i. They saw it as over — the dream, the hope, the whole movement: dead.

ii. They scattered. Fear took over. Dreams collapsed.

d. And then came Saturday.

i. That long, quiet, in-between day where nothing seemed to be happening

ii. Where God felt silent. Where heaven seemed still.

iii. And Jesus lay dead in the ground.

e. Maybe you know that space.

i. Where something in your life has ended, and you don't yet see what comes next

ii. Where prayers feel unanswered. Where hope feels... stuck.

f. That's where they were. And then Sunday morning came.

3. [3] SCRIPTURE READING: John 20:1–10

1 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. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

[4] 6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

4. THE STONE

a. They're running now — actually running.

b. When they arrive, the stone is already moved.

c. Mark's account tells us the women were asking each other on the way there:

i. 'Who will roll the stone away?'

ii. Because the stone wasn't small — it was massive, heavy, final

iii. A symbol that said: this story is over

d. But here's something we usually skip past — and it matters:

i. [5] The stone wasn't rolled away so Jesus could get out

ii. Later that same day, He walks straight through locked doors

iii. He doesn't need openings.

e. [6] The stone was rolled away so we could see in.

i. So the women could look inside and know: death has been defeated

ii. So Peter and John could see the grave clothes — not torn in a panic, but folded

iii. Calm. Deliberate. Unhurried.

iv. As if to say: this was not death winning.

f. The stone was moved not to release Jesus — but to reveal the truth.

g. And when it moved... something entirely new began.

i. Quietly. Almost without spectacle.

ii. No crowds. No trumpets.

iii. Just a few confused, grieving followers at an open tomb.

iv. But that moment was the start of something that has not stopped moving outward.

v. It reached Jerusalem... Judea... Samaria.....Rome... across centuries and oceans...

vi. ...all the way here to St. George, Kansas, in 2026.

vii. That's not coincidence. That's a resurrection ripple.

viii. And it's headed straight for this room.

5. THE RIPPLE OF NEW CREATION

a. But here's the deeper thing we have to understand:

i. This isn't just a ripple of information — as in, 'something happened a long time ago and the news spread.'

ii. It's a ripple of new creation.

iii. Something fundamentally new entered the world on Easter morning.

b. Up until that point, death always had the final word.

i. Every story ended the same way.

ii. Every person, every hope eventually met the grave.

c. But Easter morning — for the first time in human history — someone went into death and came out the other side.

- i. Alive. Physical. Real.
- ii. Not resuscitated — not back to the same fragile life only to die again
- iii. But entirely new
- iv. Transformed. Glorified. Never to die again.

d. This wasn't a metaphor or a legend that grew over time.

- i. Paul, writing likely only 6mo -2 years after the cross
- ii. in 1 Corinthians 15, says that the risen Jesus appeared to more than 500 people at one time
- iii. Most of them were still alive when Paul wrote — an open invitation to go verify it
- iv. Not slow legendary development over time, but multiple credible eyewitness accounts

e. The Bible describes what this means with one remarkable word: firstfruits.

- i. In farming, firstfruits is not the end of the harvest — it's the announcement of the beginning of the harvest
 - 1. The first fruit on the vine is the guarantee that more is on the way
 - 2. Not a one-time exception — but the beginning of a whole new wave
- ii. **Jesus is the firstfruits** — the first person to step through death into a glorified, resurrection body
- iii. Not as a one-off miracle confined to one weekend — but as the beginning of a whole new age

f. ILLUSTRATION: Picture a frozen lake in winter.

- i. Solid. Cold. Everything locked in place. Nothing moving.
- ii. And then one day — a crack forms. Just a hairline. Easy to miss.
- iii. But that crack means everything:
 - 1. It means winter is losing.
 - 2. It means the thaw has begun.
 - 3. It means what looked permanent is already giving way.
- iv. That's what the resurrection is:
 - 1. The first crack in a world frozen by sin and death.
 - 2. And from that morning forward — the thaw has been advancing.

g. New life rippling outward.

- i. Into people's hearts.
- ii. Into broken relationships.
- iii. Into lives dominated by pain, sorrow, fear, and death
- iv. Into communities and generations.

v. Into this room, this morning.

h. That's the ripple we've been talking about this year at Tru.

i. Not a cute strategy. Not a program.

ii. The resurrection of Jesus

iii. The stone that moved, and created ripples of resurrection that are still moving.

iii. And it can reach you here, today!

6. PERSONAL TURN

a. Some of you walked in this morning and your life feels a little like Saturday.

i. In-between. Uncertain. Heavy. Hopeless.

b. Maybe there's something that feels sealed shut — like that gravestone.

i. A relationship that feels beyond repair

ii. A habit you can't break

iii. Guilt you can't shake

iv. Consequences that follow you

iv. A situation that feels final

c. Easter says: that's not the end of the story.

i. The same power that moved that stone is still at work.

ii. And the ripple that started outside that empty tomb can reach wherever you are.

d. But make no mistake: a response is required.

i. The resurrection of Jesus isn't neutral — it confronts everyone who encounters it.

ii. Not everyone responded the same way.

iii. Which brings us to Thomas.

7. THE RESPONSE — THOMAS

a. The apostle Thomas hears the report from his closest friends: 'We have seen the Lord.'

b. And he says: I'm not buying it.

8. [7] SCRIPTURE READING: John 20:24–28

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 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."

26 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!" 27 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."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

9. FAITH FOR DOUBTERS

a. **Maybe that's where some of you are this morning.**

- i. You're here — but you're not sure what you believe.
- ii. You've got doubts.
- iii. You've got questions.
- iv. You're not ready to just accept this blindly.

b. That's not a character flaw. That's Thomas. That's honest.

c. Notice what Jesus doesn't do:

- i. He doesn't shame him.
- ii. He doesn't lecture him.
- iii. He doesn't tell him to blindly believe

d. **He meets him right where he is.**

- i. And gives him evidence to base his faith on
- i. 'Put your hand here. See for yourself. Stop doubting and believe.'
- ii. There's tenderness in that — not impatience.

e. And when Thomas does — he doesn't just update his intellectual position. He falls to his knees:

- i. 'My Lord and my God.'
- ii. That is not agreement with facts. That is surrender. That is worship. That's faith.

f. The resurrection ultimately doesn't call us to nod along.

- i. It calls us to something much more personal:
- ii. a response, a choice, a surrender.

10. [8] THE GOSPEL — WHAT'S BEING OFFERED

a. So here's what it looks like when the ripples of resurrection reaches you.

- i. Let me lay this out as plainly as I can.
- ii. I don't want anyone in this room to walk out without knowing what's being offered today.

b. [9] **We Were Created for Relationship with God.**

- i. You are not an accident.
- ii. You were created by God, in His image,
- iii. to know Him and walk with Him in your life.
- iv. That's not a religious idea — it's the most fundamental truth about your existence.

c. [10] Sin Broke That Relationship.

- i. Every one of us has chosen to go our own way — to live as if we are the final authority.
- ii. As if God is not good, and cannot be trusted. So it's up to us to secure our own lives.
- iii. The Bible calls that sin — not just the dramatic stuff, but the deep posture of the heart that says 'I'll decide what's right for me.'
- iv. Sin doesn't just make us imperfect. It separates us from God.
- v. It brings death — spiritual and physical.
- vi. That's why the world feels broken. That's why we feel broken.

d. [11] Jesus Took Our Place.

- i. That's what Good Friday was about.
- ii. Jesus — the only person who ever lived without sin — stepped in and absorbed the consequence that belonged to us: death — both physically and spiritually.
- iii. He didn't deserve the cross. We did.
- iv. And He went anyway — on purpose — because He loves us.

e. [12] The Resurrection Proves It Worked.

- i. If Jesus had stayed dead, we'd have nothing.
- ii. A martyr, maybe. An inspiring teacher. But not a Savior.
- iii. The resurrection is the Father's public declaration: IT IS FINISHED! The debt has been paid. Death has been defeated.
- iv. The way back to God is open.
- v. To any who will come through that door — Jesus himself

f. [13] We Are Invited to Respond.

- i. This is where it becomes personal.
- ii. The gospel is not automatic — it's offered, and it must be received.
- iii. The New Testament calls us to walk through that door by:**
 - 1. Repenting— genuinely turn from living for ourselves
 - 2. Believing — trust ourselves to Jesus, not just agree with facts about Him
 - 3. Surrendering — give Him functional leadership of our lives
- iv. And when we do walk through that door:
 - 1. We are forgiven.
 - 2. Restored. Made new.
 - 3. Brought close by the Holy Spirit.
 - 4. The Resurrection Ripple reaches us.
 - 5. And it starts moving through us.

11. INVITATION

a. So if you're here this morning and you've never taken that step —

i. What are you going to do with Jesus?

b. You don't have to have everything figured out.

i. Thomas didn't. The disciples didn't.

ii. But there comes a moment where you stop standing at a distance and step in.

iii. You're not 100% sure, but you're at least 51% convinced that this is real and that you're in.

c. If that's you today — you can respond right where you are:

i. Tell God something as simple as:

1. [14] 'Jesus, I believe You are who You said You are: Savior and Lord.'

2. 'I believe You died for my sin and rose again.'

3. 'I turn from my own way and I trust You with my life.'

4. 'Forgive me. Lead me. Make me new.'

d. That's the beginning.

i. If you take that step today — tell someone. Don't keep it to yourself.

ii. Tell the person that brought you. Come tell me or another leader here.

iii. Let us walk with you in it. Help you grow.

iv. You're not meant to walk the Christian life alone!

12. [15] FOR THOSE WHO ALREADY BELIEVE — LIVE THE RESURRECTION NOW

a. Easter is not just something you celebrate once a year. It's something you inhabit.

b. Because here's a real danger:

i. To believe in the resurrection — and still live like the stone is in place

ii. Still stuck. Still hiding. Still playing it safe. Still holding back the next step of obedience.

iii. Still bound by fear and locked doors.

c. But the tomb is empty. The stone is rolled away.

d. Jesus is risen!

e. And everything is different.

13. [16] SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 6:4

4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

a. You who trust in Jesus were raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

i. Not someday. Now.

- ii. The same power that moved that stone and raised Jesus is at work in you.
- iii. From the moment you first believed.
- iv. Through this very moment.

14. RIPPLE INTO MISSION

a. And this is where it connects to what God has been calling us to all year here at Tru.

i. [17] The resurrection doesn't just change you.

ii. **The ripples move through you.**

iii. They don't stop with you, they keep on going, taking you along:

b. Into your Neighborhood, School, Workplace, Family, Friendships

c. Not typically through big, flashy moments — but through small, faithful steps. **Like small stones dropped into the water that ripple outward:**

i. A conversation

ii. An invitation

iii. An act of service

iv. A moment of courage when you would normally go quiet.

d. Think about the women at that tomb.

i. No strategy. No platform. No training program.

ii. No social standing or influence.

iii. They just went and told what they saw.

iv. And that simple, ordinary act became part of a movement that reached across 2,000 years — all the way to this room.

e. Don't underestimate what God can do through your next step.

15. CLOSING — BACK TO THE LOCKED ROOM

a. We started this morning in a locked room.

b. By the end of John 20, Jesus has walked into that locked room — twice.

i. Not angry. Not disappointed. Not 'I told you so.'

c. But 'Peace be with you.'

i. That's what He says to people hiding behind locked doors.

ii. Then He shows them His hands. His side.

d. And the text says the disciples were 'overjoyed when they saw the Lord.'

i. **From locked-in fear to overjoyed — in an instant!**

ii. Not because they mustered more confidence,

iii. But because the risen Jesus showed up in the room where they were hiding.

iv. And everything changed.

e. [18] Locked doors didn't stop Him then.

i. And whatever feels sealed shut in your life right now — **They don't stop Him now.**

ii. **The resurrection started a ripple of new creation that reached a locked room** in Jerusalem.

iii. It reached St. George, Kansas.

iv. It reached this room, this morning.

v. The only question left is what you do when it reaches you.

16. [19] CLOSING SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3–5

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

a. We have new birth – a living hope — through the resurrection of Jesus.

b. We are safe. Secure. Sure.

c. Not a history lesson. Not a theological concept,

d. But a living hope. That is what Easter offers. That is the ripple that has reached us here.

e. And it won't stop with us. It moves through and past us into the future.

e. To a living hope that will be ultimately realized when you and I open our eyes, still cloudy with death

f. And walk out of our own graves. Resurrected and made fully new.

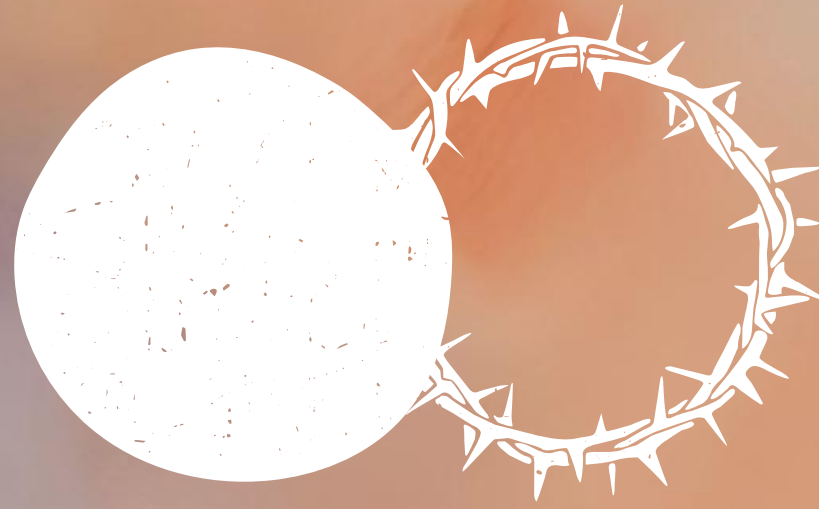
g. Just like Jesus.

h. In a world where everything has been put right.

i. And death and sin and sorrow are gone forever.

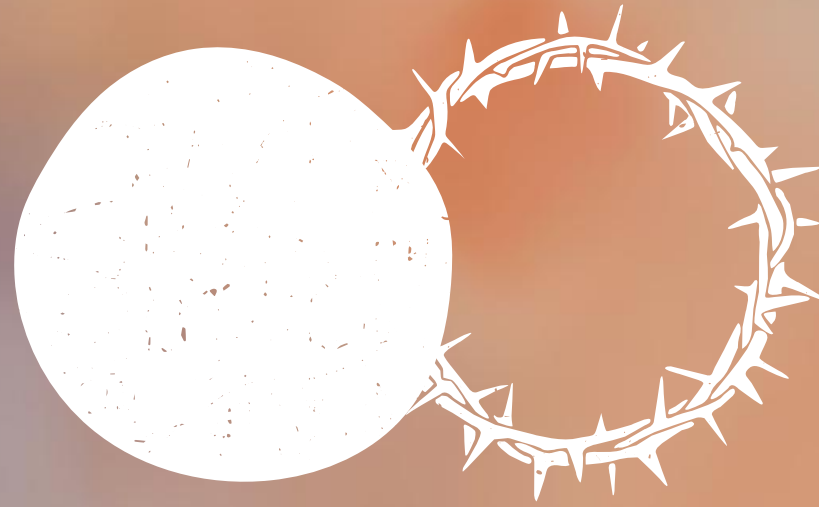
j. Yes, Lord Jesus, come back soon! And finish what you started.

17. [20] CLOSING PRAYER



HE IS RISEN!

HAPPY EASTER

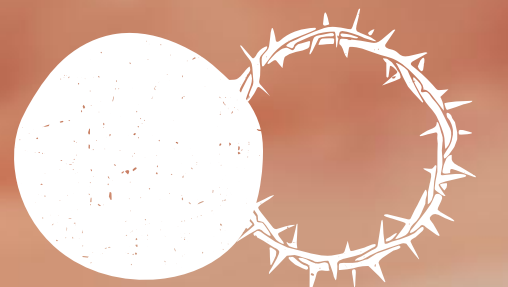


**The resurrection of Jesus
started a ripple that is still moving
— and it's headed straight for you.**

JOHN 20:1-10

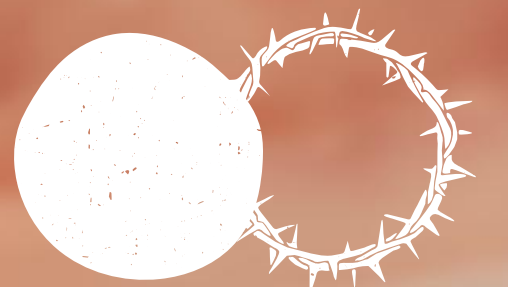
¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

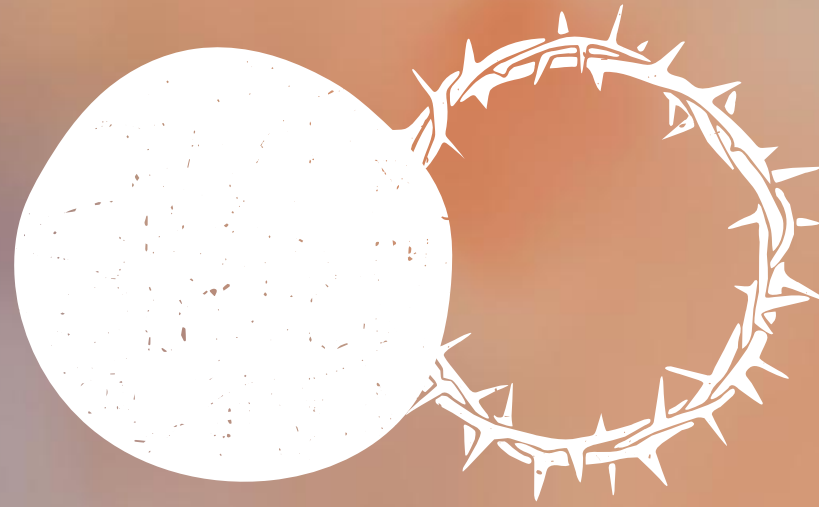
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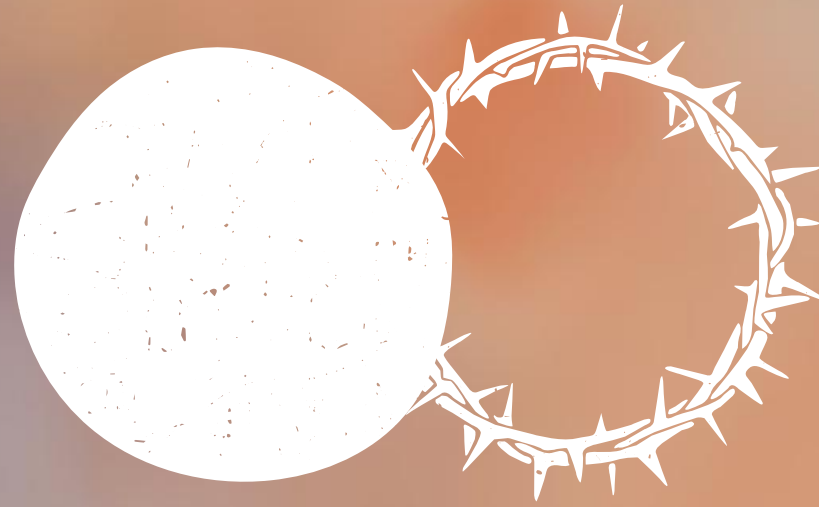
JOHN 20:1-10

⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.





**The stone wasn't rolled away so Jesus
could get out.**



**The stone wasn't rolled away so Jesus
could get out.**

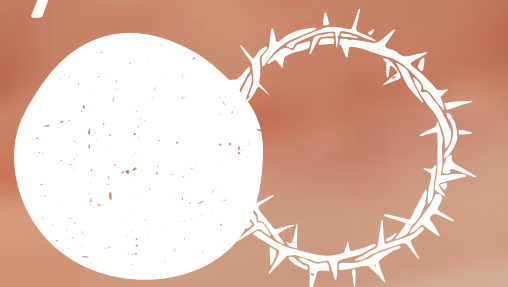
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JOHN 20:24-28

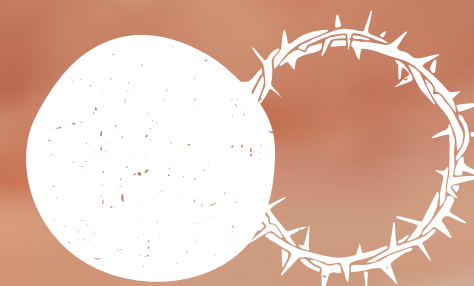
²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

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²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

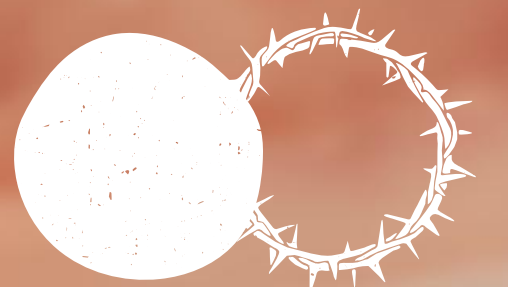


THE GOSPEL



THE GOSPEL

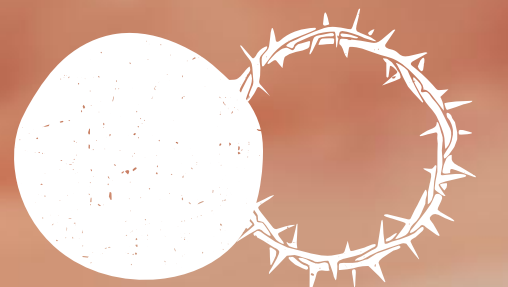
We were created for relationship with God.



THE GOSPEL

We were created for relationship with God.

Sin broke that relationship.

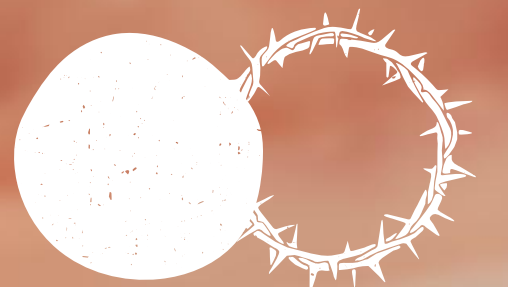


THE GOSPEL

We were created for relationship with God.

Sin broke that relationship.

Jesus took our place.



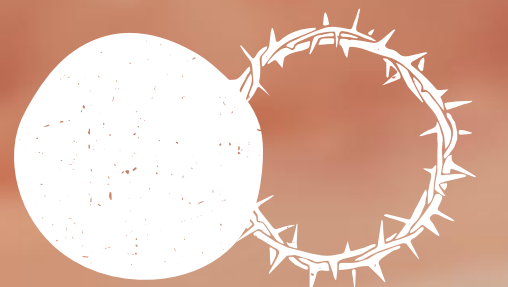
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The resurrection proves it worked.



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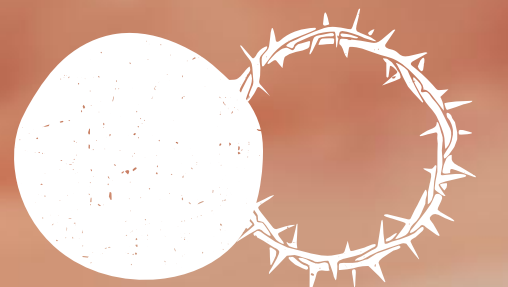
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We are invited to respond.



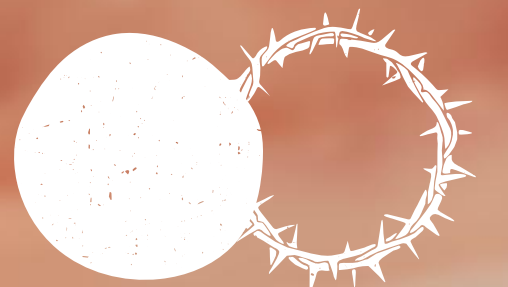
RESPONSE

*Jesus, I believe You are who You said You are:
Savior and Lord.*

I believe You died for my sin and rose again.

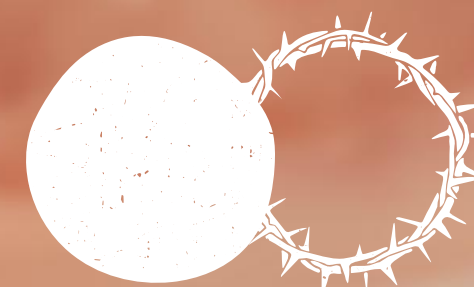
*I turn from my own way and I trust You with
my life.*

Forgive me. Lead me. Make me new.



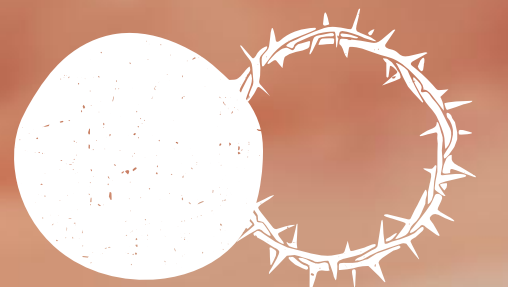
RESPONSE

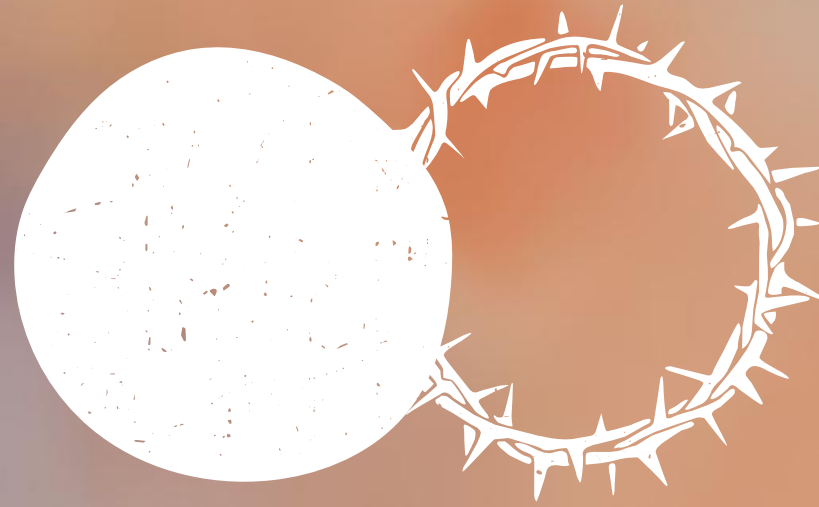
Live the resurrection now!



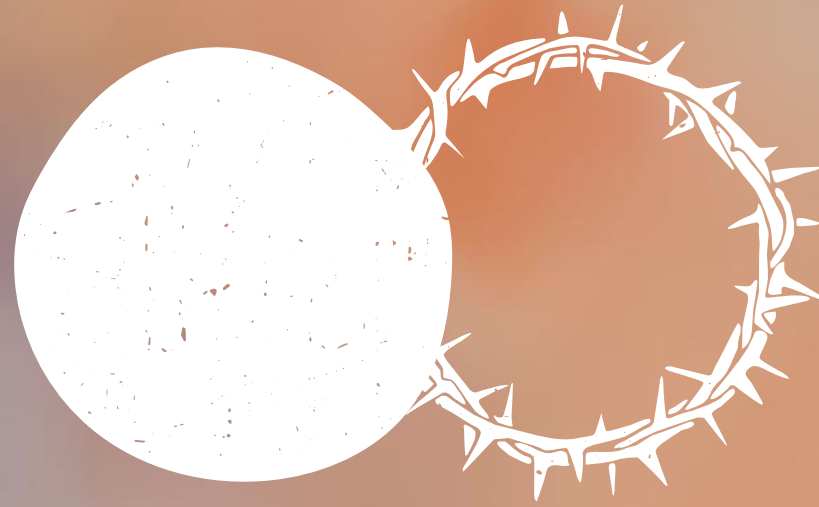
ROMANS 6:4

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.





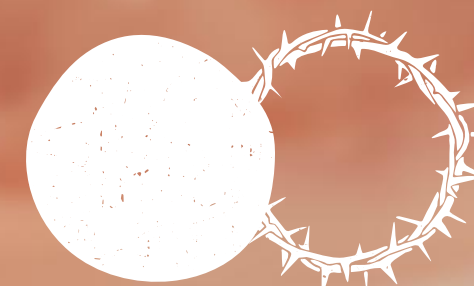
**The resurrection doesn't just change you.
The ripples move through you.**

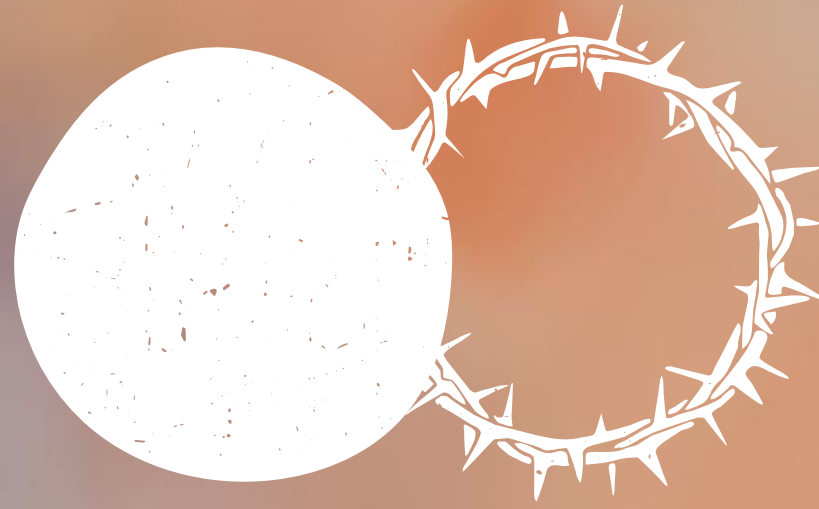


**Locked doors didn't stop Him then.
They don't stop Him now.**

1 PETER 1:3-5

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.
This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are
shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is
ready to be revealed in the last time.





RESURRECTION RIPPLES