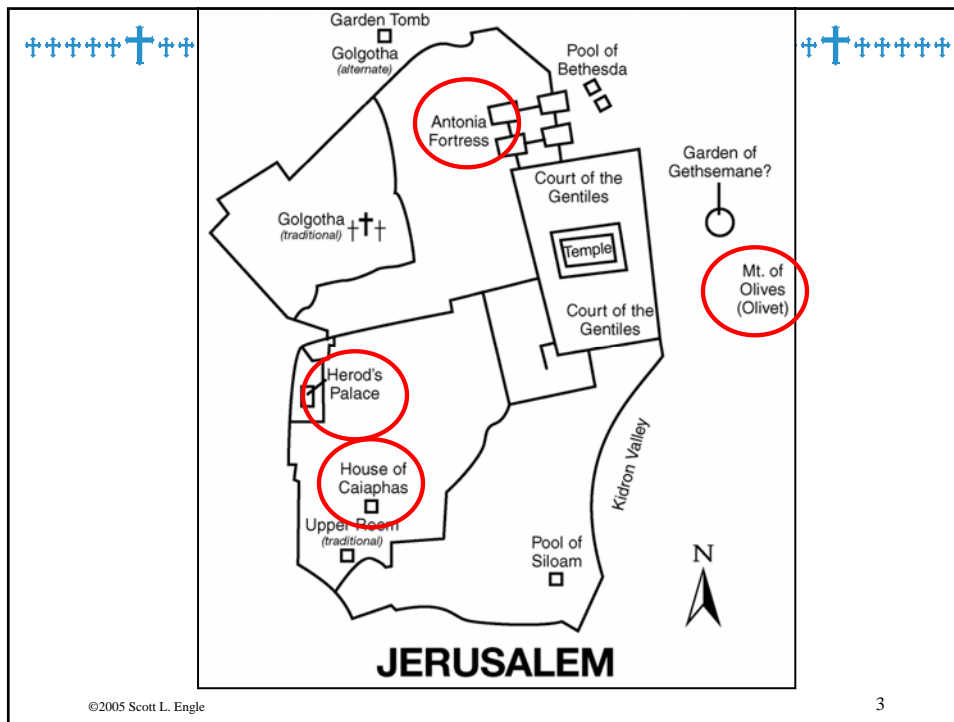




# *The Gospel of Luke: Jesus, Savior of the World*

Week 8  
The Resurrection Narratives





## *The Empty Tomb (24:1-12)*

- ❖ We've met these women before. Here, they are the discoverers of the empty tomb.
  - The men don't believe the women. Who'd really believe anyone who claimed such a thing?! Everybody knows that the dead stay dead. There was NO Jewish expectation of the resurrection of one person.
- ❖ The two angels mildly scold the women and remind them of Jesus' words re his death and resurrection.
  - Much of our faith is about remembering and understanding. Even in Luke's time, believers were 'remembering Jesus.'
- ❖ In verse 12, Peter heads home perplexed. The TNIV has it, "wondering what happened."
- ❖ What is our picture so far??
  - Fear, confusion, disturbance, and doubt.



## *On the road to Emmaus (24:13-35)*

- ❖ Christ is known by revelation.
  - In the Gospels, faith is never coerced by overwhelming revelations to the unprepared.
- ❖ A summary of the Gospel (the proclamation) is recited.
- ❖ OT Scriptures witness to Jesus.
  - This is a big theme in Acts.
  - Remember Simeon in Luke 2 – Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel's hope.
- ❖ Christ is revealed in the sacramental meal
  - The men's eyes are opened when they break bread with Jesus. Holy Communion is more than a mere remembering.
  - Also read Genesis 3:6-7. Now Luke tells us of the first meal of the New Creation.
- ❖ Disciples understand by remembering (v. 32)
- ❖ Disciples witness to what they have seen and heard.

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## *Appearance in Jerusalem (24:36-49)*

- ❖ On Sunday evening now.
- ❖ Jesus is no ghost. He has flesh and bones. He eats.
- ❖ Again with the OT – Jesus is the fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures. They point to him.
  - Thus, Christians will necessarily interpret the OT differently than Jews and other non-Christians.
  - Jesus opens their minds – this is about revelation! We cannot reason our way to the knowledge of the one true God.
  - The story has never been about Israel's redemption *from* suffering, but about its redemption *through* suffering!! And, hence, the whole world.
- ❖ Repentance and forgiveness are to be proclaimed in Jesus' name to "all nations."
- ❖ Jesus will send what he promised – the Comforter and Advocate. The disciples are to stay in Jerusalem until the Spirit comes.

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## *The Blessing and Departure (24:50-53)*

- ❖ At first glance, this would seem to be still on Sunday. But what a jam-packed day that would be! More likely, Luke has compressed events into a single fast-moving, worshipful account.
- ❖ Being “lifted up into heaven” makes lots of sense given the disciples understanding of the cosmos.
  - How might you and I experience this today? Jesus stepping into another dimension? Would that make more sense to us?
- ❖ Luke has come full circle. The Gospel began in the temple and ends in the temple.
  - The story of Zechariah filled us with anticipation. Something big is going to happen!
  - The Gospel ends on another note of anticipation. The disciples anxiously await something big.

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## *Reflections on the Resurrection*

- ❖ The Christian proclamation stands or falls on the truthfulness of the resurrection. It is an historical claim. It either happened or it didn't.
  - We shouldn't be surprised at people's perplexity at such a claim. Even Jesus' disciples were perplexed until their eyes and minds were opened.
- ❖ It is the resurrection that validates all that came before, The cross is the climax of the story; the resurrection is the proof.
- ❖ Don't get hung up on the nature of Jesus' body. He has flesh and bones. He can be touched. He walks. He eats. Yet he seems to simply materialize and disappear. Luke is just telling you what he has learned. He doesn't try to explain it all.

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## *Reflections on Luke's Gospel*

- ❖ Luke devotes much of the Gospel to Jesus' ministries of teaching and healing. Yet, in the book of Acts nearly all of the "sermons" focus on Jesus' identity, his fulfillment of Israel's hope, his crucifixion, and his resurrection.
  - Why do you think this is so? Paul, also, says that when he arrives in a new town, he preaches "Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Cor 2:2).
  - Is the key question this: "Who is Jesus?"
- ❖ Remember Luke's themes of universality. Jesus is not only Israel's Redeemer but Savior of the World. Always, the world was to be redeemed *through* Israel. This is the *purpose* of the covenant – it was never only about Israel.
- ❖ Other
  - Jesus prays a lot!
  - The Holy Spirit plays a prominent role in this Gospel.