

SALT CO

5.12.24

Via Lucis: Following the Way of the Resurrection

“Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in and he saw and believed;”

John 20:6-8

WELCOME TO THE SALT CO!

When we say “Seasoned Adults” we mean this in two ways:

SEASONED AS IN...

Chronologically-- we’ve lived a lot of seasons of life

BUT more importantly-

Spiritually--- ...like when sodium and chlorine combined make SALT... by the grace of God, when we receive Christ into our lives we become like THIS [gesture: one hand—two hands—joined together]

We become something beautiful, a *new creation*...transformed and *transforming* for the rest of our lives.

JESUS CALLS US THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

It’s one way to describe our calling...one from which we never retire!

So, we call this the SALT CO—situated alongside Route 60+ where we pull over-to share some stories with each other of following and encountering our Lord on our journeys—We do this to refresh, retool and REFUEL...for the ever- changing terrain on Route 60+.

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION (VIA LUCIS)

This Spring we are exploring the Via Lucis, Latin for the Way of Light, following the Stations of the Resurrection- a new practice that complements and completes the 14 Stations of the Cross. The Via Lucis comprises 14 Stations of Jesus risen (HE IS RISEN!!), all based in the witness of the Gospels, the book of Acts, and Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. (See the Via Lucis cards on your tables).

When we spend time in each station meditating on the eyewitness testimony of Scripture it's like we are looking through a window seeing what words cannot describe. How do you tell someone about a sunrise? Where do you begin?

Each Station reveals things that our daily lives crowd out.

I love the story- a great Mothers' Day story- told of a mom who, after having tucked her two children into bed for the night, heard little footsteps and a door creak. Curious, she stepped quietly to the open door to see what was happening. She saw her older child leaning over the rail of his baby sister's crib. In a low whisper she heard him ask, *"Tell me what God is like, I'm beginning to forget..."*

Maybe this morning we are like that child, intrigued; curious; leaning in to peer through the second window, the second Station of the Resurrection.

To get another glimpse, to remind us of how our loving Father God sees you and me, all creation, and us in it.

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION (VIA LUCIS)

Last time we looked through the window of the First Station. We saw women discovering the empty tomb, and encountering a dazzling being telling them Jesus had been raised, just as He said.

The Second Station is found in John's Gospel.

You and I are invited to come and look, and see... We'll use a way we practiced at our last SALT CO that goes like this:

1. To start we'll just get settled and quiet.
I'll read the scripture for this station, three times.
2. Then, we'll put up some art depicting the station and invite you to gaze on the scene for a few minutes. If you have difficulty seeing the art on the screens we have printed a copy in an envelope for each table.
3. I'll ask you to write, or draw, or sketch, or list what you're getting from peering through this first window, the first Station of the Resurrection.
4. Then at the table you can share with each other what you're seeing. Folks online at home write me your thoughts at dick.thompson@calvarywestlake.org.

Ready? Let's step into the Way of Light.

1. Get yourself settled. I invite you to place your hands on your lap palms up. I will read the word of God for us from the Gospel of John. This first time just take in John's description:

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in and he saw and believed;”

John 20:1-8

As I read this a second time, I invite you to see yourself here. Imagine who you are with, what you notice as you look around, the sounds you hear, what you smell, what you touch.

As I read a third time, imagine responding to those you are with. Imagine what they are experiencing. Notice what are you experiencing. What do you feel? Where do you feel this in your body?

With the scripture we’ve just heard, take a few minutes to gaze on this painting by Eugene Burnand.

<https://www.eugene-burnand.com/images/Disciples Peter and John running to the tomb on the morning of the resurrection by Eugene Burnand.jpg>

Take a minute to write, sketch, list, draw what you are noticing. Maybe questions, something you've never thought about before, something you suspect you'll have to think about, explore...

Let's go to the tables.

TABLE TALK (30 minutes)

- a. Share your name. As you listened to the scripture read, who did you find yourself most identifying with? Why?
- b. What did you see when you were gazing at the artist's interpretation?
- c. What do you think John wants to get across to us when he writes, "**and he** [John] **saw and believed**"? (v. 8)
- d. What question(s) does this Station raise for you? How might you pursue this?
- e. How does this Station help you?

When I was an assistant pastor, I sat under the preaching of a man who had a way of drawing us in. I found myself thinking I didn't want him to stop! He had a phrase he would use to help us to lean in, he would say, "*And then it dawned on me...*"

Our faith in God is like this, isn't it? It's the experience of dawning out of darkness, slowly, emerging seeing, with lots of questions yet unexplained.

This passage takes place at dawn, in more ways than one. It's the dawn of a new week- Sunday. A hint here. We remember from Genesis chapter 1 how creation took place in seven days. This is the *Eighth Day*. Jesus' resurrection is the dawn of the *new creation*!

Maybe you identified with Mary Magdalene. She is sometimes called the first apostle, bringing the news that the tomb was empty.

Perhaps you identified with Peter... or John. They come... *running*. When have we come “running”? What happens that would cause us to “run”? Like the father running to wrap up his lost son in his arms. We run to emergencies, not knowing what’s happened, who, how, why... we come running to find out...

Did you talk about what you see in their faces? Their hands? What they’re thinking and feeling. They *know* dead people don’t rise- but then again there was Lazarus...What is this news Mary has told them? They run with hope, against hope, mixed with fear, worry, confusion, and wonder.

Last SALT CO I said, Christianity is not a “religion”, it is a movement that began because something happened. Like the BIG BANG, that, as far as we can tell, began the universe. This Station brings us to ground zero. The “singularity” that launched all this. It’s why we are here this morning.

Ever since the beginning there has been this sense of something “dawning” on us.

Peter and John come to look. *So do we*. Here is strangeness. A heavy stone rolled from the mouth of the tomb. Bull in a china shop Peter plunges in past John to look for himself. Are you like that? The linen cloths are still there. It looks like someone has not just taken the body; they have first gone through the trouble of unwrapping it. John came in. They look more closely. The cloths are lying in one place, but the smaller piece that had been around Jesus’ head is over there in a place by itself. Weird. It looks like the body wasn’t picked up and unwrapped, but more like it had... disappeared, leaving the cloths behind, “like a collapsed balloon”.

John looks at all this. But now he “sees”. What’s the difference? Before he had “believed” Jesus, that He was the Messiah, that He was God’s man for us.

But then, it begins to *dawn* on him.

That it was true. Everything the Lord had said, and done, and showed them.

It had begun. It had started. Right here. From this place. It had *happened!* Resurrection! Not like Lazarus. No. *The end of death!* Of evil’s ultimate power. John saw and believed, that it’s true. *All things will be made new.*

This changes... everything. Everything.

A little later on in this chapter at the end of John’s Gospel we hear,

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:30-31).]

What does he mean?

Watch this!

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=youtube++the+new+humanity+bible+project+video&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:db763af9,vid:takEeHtRrMw,st:0>

Two very important things.

One, check in with your own heart. Perhaps this morning you are seeing the dawn in a whole new way. Tell someone about this. You are being drawn by His Spirit. Into life. I, for one, would love to hear about it.

Two, any who are His are enlisted into His mission: we are all agents in the work of the emerging new creation.