

THE GOSPEL WRITERS

THE LESSON: LUKE 24

The amazing miracle of Jesus entering human history is recorded for us in the four Gospels: authored by Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each of these men, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote an eyewitness (or eyewitness-based) account of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of our Lord.

Their accounts were written from different perspectives and were originally intended for different audiences, but together their testimonies have been handed down through the centuries: *to us*. St. Matthew was a Jewish tax collector who wanted his readers to understand that Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy: Messiah and King. St. Mark liked to use the word “immediately” to convey how action-packed Jesus’ life of service was. St. Luke was a Gentile (non-Jew) and according to tradition, a doctor. It is Luke that tells us the most about Jesus’ birth and his compassionate ministry of healing. St. John had a style all his own, and wanted his readers to understand that Jesus was not just human, but fully divine. Together the Gospels paint a rich portrait of our Lord for a common purpose: “so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31).

Jesus left his disciples with a job to do. They were to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and then they were to go and share the good news, acting as witnesses to all they had seen “in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The Gospel accounts we hold in our hands today are one of the ways in which those first eyewitnesses obeyed this commission!

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

The Gospel writers had this in common: they’d met Jesus and been changed by him and it became their task to write about what had happened so that others could have the same encounter. *Have you met Jesus? If so, how has that encounter changed you? Is there someone he might be prompting you to share your story with?* Spend some time in silent prayer, reflecting on these questions and asking God to direct you.

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through one or all four of the following collects.

O almighty God, who by thy blessed Son didst call Matthew from the receipt of custom to be an Apostle and Evangelist: Grant us grace to forsake all covetous desires and inordinate love of riches, and to follow the same thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

(COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE, PAGE 292)

O almighty God, who hast instructed thy holy Church with the heavenly doctrine of thy Evangelist Saint Mark: Give us grace, that, being not like children carried away with every blast of vain doctrine, we may be established in the truth of thy holy Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST, PAGE 272)

Almighty God, who calledst Luke the Physician, whose praise is in the Gospel, to be an Evangelist, and Physician of the soul: May it please thee that, by the wholesome medicines of the doctrine delivered by him, all the diseases of our souls may be healed; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST, PAGE 295)

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Merciful Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon thy Church, that it being enlightened by the doctrine of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John may so walk in the light of thy truth, that it may at length attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PAGE 110)

LUKE 24: **YOU ARE WITNESSES**

³⁶As they (the disciples) were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marvelling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.