

# Devotions for Eastertide

**Read each of the gospel stories of the empty tomb in turn, one each day for four days:**

*Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18*

**Notice each day** what stands out for, what words catch your attention. Use them as a springboard for prayer. On the fifth, sixth, and seventh days and on for a few more days, read the same stories two at a time in any order, then three at a time, then four.

**Note the similarities and differences.** What do you think those differences might be about? What catches your attention when you read comparatively? Use those thoughts as a springboard for prayer.

**Consider these stories again in the light of these words of poetry by Linda Smith:**

*Joy breaks through each Easter - comes not on cautious tiptoe  
but with great bounds - glad shouts of "alleluia"  
wakes us from our lethargy - waves rainbow hope before our eyes.*

*Joy breaks through each Easter  
just as it did that first time - surprises us anew.  
It takes us by the hands - leads us in a dance of exultation!  
then stops so we can hear within the silence of our hearts the news:  
'God is with you always. Love lives on.'*

Over several other days read the variety of other Easter stories in the gospels featuring appearances of the Risen Jesus to his disciples and followers: The several alternate endings to Mark's gospel: Mark 16:9-13; 14-18; 19-20; a different version of verses 9-10.

*Matthew 28:16-20 \* Luke 24:13-35; Luke 24:36-49 \* John 20:19-31; John 21:1-14; John 21:15-25*



**What catches your attention** in each of these stories? How would you respond to an appearance of the Risen Christ? Go ahead, invite him to be present to you during a time of prayer. Listen for what he might say to you.

**Read the stories again** two or three at a time and note similarities and differences. What might these be about? Use what catches your attention as a springboard for prayer.



**Easter hopes worthy of reflection:**

*'The need for a new heart, new eyes, new patterns of judgment, and expectation – a new centre, a new goal, a new mood, a new striving, a new commitment. (Paul Minear)*

