



Via Dolorosa (“Way of Sorrow”)
Believed to be the path that Jesus
walked on the way to his crucifixion.
Photo credit: Alan Goldstein

READING LUKE WITH GRACE: LUKE 23-24

MAD DASH THROUGH THE THEMES

**WHAT PASSAGES CAUGHT YOUR
EYE/HEART?**

**THE RESURRECTION, FORGIVING
AND BLESSING**

LUKE 23: GOOD FRIDAY

**Trial(s) and Sentencing
(23:1-25)**

Jesus appears before Pilate, who sends him to Herod, who sends him back to Pilate.

The charges portray Jesus as a threat to Rome in order to force Pilate to sentence Jesus to death.

Note the role of “the people” in these passages.

LUKE 23: GOOD FRIDAY

**The Way to the
Crucifixion
(23:26-31)**

**Barabbas (v. 25) becomes the first
person Jesus literally dies for.
Simon of Cyrene becomes the first to
literally take up Jesus' cross and
follow him.
Note the reactions of "the people"
along the way.**

LUKE 23: GOOD FRIDAY

**The Crucifixion
(23:32-49)**

**Sets of three:
3 crosses**

**3 groups around the cross (people,
leaders, soldiers)**

3 sayings of Jesus (v. 34, 43, 46)

**3 responses (centurion, the crowd,
acquaintances)**

**Darkness; tearing of the temple
curtain**

LUKE 23: GOOD FRIDAY

The Burial (23:50-56)

Joseph of Arimathea – member of the council who disagreed with their plan – takes Jesus' body to a tomb.

His “righteous disagreement” is demonstrated in his actions.

The women follow behind him, see Jesus' dead body laid in the tomb.

LUKE 24: EASTER SUNDAY

The Empty Tomb (24:1-12)

The women find the tomb empty, encounter two men “in dazzling clothing” who ask “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?”

They run back to tell the disciples, who don’t believe them.

Luke does not include the account of Mary encountering the risen Jesus.

LUKE 24: EASTER SUNDAY

**Encounter on the Road
to Emmaus
(24:13-35)**

**Why are the disciples unable to
recognize Jesus on the road?**
**Disciples are disappointed that
things didn't go as they expected.**
**Jesus emphasizes fulfillment of the
scripture.**
**Their eyes are opened only when
Jesus breaks bread with them.**
**Symbolic of the Word and the
Sacrament.**

LUKE 24: EASTER SUNDAY

**Jesus Appears to His
Disciples
(24:36-49)**

**Jesus shows he has a physical body.
Note that the disciples 'in their joy,
they were disbelieving and still
wondering' (v. 41).**

**Here Jesus relates fulfillment of the
scripture to the suffering Messiah.**

**Jesus charges his disciples to be
witnesses, promises a gift from the
Father (the Holy Spirit).**

LUKE 24: EASTER SUNDAY

**Jesus' Blessing and
Ascension
(24:50-53)**

“four short verses that contain a gesture of blessing, an ascension that brings the Gospel of Luke full circle, and the disciples joyfully worshiping the risen Christ. Four short verses of commissioning, without a single conversation being quoted.”

- Roger Paynter in *Feasting on the Gospels: Luke*

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION 1: WHAT PASSAGE SPOKE TO YOU THIS WEEK?

What passages jump out at you?
What “aha!” moments are you encountering?
What questions do you have?



BREAKOUT PREAMBLE: FORGIVENESS

**On the cross Jesus said,
“Father, forgive them; for
they do not know what
they are doing.”(23:34)**

**“The forgiveness we sometimes glibly
invoke involves a God whose grace
exceeds our imaginations and whose
suffering love challenges our notion of
how a God would behave. So it is not
simple. It is profound and mysterious
and deep, and when we turn it into a
simple formula, it loses its power to
transform and reform us.”**

- Edward A. McLeod Jr. in *Feasting on the Gospels: Luke*

BREAKOUT PREAMBLE: SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

The significance of the resurrected Jesus appearing in physical form (24:40-43)

“[Jesus] is the risen Lord.... And, because his resurrection is not a merely spiritual matter, [the disciples] cannot limit their service to purely spiritual matters.... The Lord who broke the bonds of death calls his followers to break the bonds of injustice and oppression.”

- Justo Gonzalez, *Belief: A Theological Commentary of the Bible – Luke*

BREAKOUT PREAMBLE: RECEIVING AND GIVING BLESSINGS

Jesus lifts his hands to bless the disciples and ascends to the heaven (24:50-51)

“We have a blessing to offer – one that begins with the blessing of Jesus himself... Since our congregations have received Christ’s blessing, we should make a point of sharing that blessing with everyone around us...”

- Henry G. Brinton in *Feasting on the Gospels: Luke*

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION 2: FORGIVENESS, BLESSINGS, AND THE RESURRECTION

Groups 1, 2: What is the significance of Jesus' physical resurrection to his disciples? How did they respond? What is its significance to us today in how we, as the body of Christ, go out into the world?

Groups 3, 4: How did the disciples respond to Jesus' blessing? How are we called to respond to that blessing today? What does a ministry of blessing look like?