

**April 2025**

*He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Matt. 28:6*

The angel didn't roll away the stone to let Jesus out of the tomb on Easter morning. The angel rolled away the stone to show the women that Jesus wasn't in there because He was risen from the dead and left the tomb empty. The resurrection had already taken place. The angel moved the stone to prove it.

Our risen Lord appeared to the disciples while they were in a room with the doors shut and locked. No one secretly let Him in through the doors. Just as He needed no one to remove the stone for Him, He needed no one to give Him access to the room because after His resurrection, Jesus no longer limits Himself to the constraints of humanity. Yes, He is always flesh and bone as us, but He is also God, and after the resurrection He allows Himself full use of His divinity, for He was raised in glory.

To show that He is still flesh and blood He shows Himself to His disciples, He has Thomas touch His wounds, He eats and drinks with them. Yet, Jesus does this not because He needs food to sustain His life but to prove that He is the risen Savior and confirm the disciples faith in His resurrection. The same man who died for them is risen and then He shows it by many proofs (Acts 1:3). He doesn't have to bang on the stone or knock at the door to get where He wants to go. He subjected Himself to our limitations for a time in order to bear our sin and face death for us. But no more. After putting Himself in our place He rises from death, to deliver us who through the fear death were subject to lifelong slavery (Heb. 2:15) that we would have confidence to draw near the throne of grace and find help in time of need.

This time of year, you may see documentaries or other shows that try to find an answer of how or why Jesus wasn't in the tomb or other myths surrounding our Lord. This has already been tried according the Biblical record. When trying to debunk the resurrection, the chief priests said to the guards, *Tell people, "His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep."* So they took the money and did as they were directed (see Matt. 28:11-15). Don't fall for it. Jesus didn't need the disciples to take Him away anymore than He needed the stone moved or the doors to be unlocked. He is risen, just as He said. No one or no thing can keep the triumphant Christ down and His Easter miracle from being proclaimed and heard. The news of His glorious victory over the grave comes to you, the Lord Himself comes to you, and you are strengthened in the faith. The proof of the resurrection is the proof of you being raised with your Lord and because He lives you will live also!

*The foe in triumph shouted  
When Christ lay in the tomb;  
But lo, he now is routed  
His boast is turned to gloom.  
For Christ again is free;  
In glorious victory  
He who is strong to save  
Has triumphed o'er the grave.  
LSB 467 st. 2*

Alleluia!  
Pastor Suggitt

### LIFE QUOTE

Friend, you have a good word to speak to your neighbor. You have God's Word of life to share—with your spouse, your children or grandchildren, your co-worker or friend. You can tell them that their life is sacred, a gift of God, and that their life matters to you.

*A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

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