

Prologue Hall

Welcome. What you're about to witness over the next 90 minutes centers on the most extraordinary claim in human history. That a man died, was buried, and rose from the dead. The Shroud of Turin isn't just an ancient burial cloth. It isn't simply a religious relic. Throughout history, countless people have died and been buried. Their burial cloths have deteriorated or been lost to time. But the Shroud of Turin bears something unprecedented. A mysterious reverse image of a crucified man that cannot be explained. Today, your journey begins in theater 1. Immersed in the story of Jesus, surrounded by 12 pivotal moments from his life and ministry in our breathtaking 360° theater. This is the foundation of the story, but it's not where the story ends.

Next, you'll walk into a recreation of the tomb of Jesus. Here, you'll watch an 18-minute documentary exploring the Shroud of Turin, the most studied artifact in human history. You'll discover what scientists, historians, and medical examiners have found. Blood stains consistent with Roman crucifixion, pollen from Jerusalem, and an image that defies explanation. The story doesn't end in the tomb. In our third theater, you'll explore the 40 days Jesus spent on Earth after rising from the dead. He ate with his disciples. He allowed them to touch his wounds. He appeared to over 500 people. These weren't visions or hallucinations. The Gospels describe physical, tangible encounters with a resurrected body. Next, you'll enter the museum, where you can examine the evidence for yourself.

Art meets history and faith meets forensics. Interactive displays allow you to explore the shroud's mysteries hands on and why after decades of study, it continues to defy simple explanation. Here's what makes the Shroud of Turin genuinely unique. While we have historical records of Jesus life and death, while we have eyewitness testimonies to his resurrection, the shroud may be the only physical evidence of the resurrection event itself. If Jesus rose from the dead, something happened to his body at the moment of resurrection. Something that released it from death, something

that left the burial cloths behind. Empty but marked. The shroud's image created by some unreproducible method, may be the permanent record of that impossible moment. You'll explore the single question that matters most. Could this ancient cloth be evidence for the resurrection? The answer awaits you. Your journey begins now.

Room 1

Welcome as we explore the life of Jesus through the holy shroud believed by many to be a silent witness to his resurrection. In the dusty streets of Nazareth, Mary, a young woman with eyes full of wonder, received a heavenly visitation that would ripple through time. The Holy Spirit's touch blessed her womb with the promised Messiah, and wonder melted into acceptance as she embraced her sacred duty. Joseph, a humble carpenter with calloused hands and a gentle heart, stood steadfast by her side as they embarked on an arduous journey to Bethlehem to register for a census ordered by Caesar Augustus, the emperor of Rome. Setting their feet upon the road, each step bringing them closer to destiny. In a humble stable where the air was thick with the earthy scent of hay and livestock, the miracle unfolded and Mary gave birth, bringing forth the first breath of Jesus, the long awaited king. Swallowed in cloth meant for lambs, he lay in a manger, a throne of straw for the prince of peace. The brilliant light pierced the night. The star in the sky guided wise men from distant lands. They visited the child offering gifts laden with prophecy, gold for a king, frankincense for divinity, and myrr for shadowing sacrifice. As the night whispered its secret to the world, a simple stable became the center of hope. In one extraordinary moment, the savior of mankind and creator of the universe is born on this earthly home, forever changing the story of humanity.

His path led south where the Jordan's watered murmured ancient

prophecies and his cousin John the Baptist stood kneedeep in its flow. John's voice cried out in the wilderness, "prepare the way." echoing the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. When John saw his cousin Jesus coming toward him in the crowd, patiently waiting his turn to be submerged, John said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." As Jesus arose from the water of the Jordan River, the heavens opened up. The dove luminous against the sky descended upon him. Then a voice that shook the very foundations of the earth proclaimed, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." Recognition flickered in John's eyes. I saw the spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, "On whomever you see the spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit." Now I have seen and testified that he is the son of God. This momentous scene was a public declaration of Jesus's divine identity. The air crackled with revelation and whispers of Messiah rippled through the crowd like waves on water, heralding the dawn of a new era.

The Sea of Galilee churned under a brooding sky. Its waters a mirror to the fisherman's despair. Peter and Andrew, brothers bound by blood and shared struggle, hauled in empty nets after a long and lonely night of fishing on the barren sea. Their hopes as hollow as their catch. They were skeptical when an unknown man on the shore told them to cast their nets again. But with trembling hands, they obeyed. Suddenly, their nets strained, heavy with a miraculous bounty of gleaming fish. Transformed forever, they abandoned their old lives, following the path of Jesus. In the bustling marketplace, Matthew hunched over his coinladen table, collecting taxes, the weight of public scorn heavier than his purse. Jesus appeared before him, compassion radiating from his smile. With two simple words, "Follow me." He offered redemption. Matthew's coins clattered, forgotten as he rose to join the growing band of transformed souls. Each encounter was a brushstroke in a divine masterpiece. Jesus wields the chisel that carved ordinary men into apostles. These chosen few

became living testaments to his power. their lives rewritten as a demonstration of the hope, love, and salvation Jesus brings to all people.

Jesus began an active ministry of preaching, casting out demons, raising the dead, and healing. He proclaimed his father's kingdom, the kingdom of heaven, where the first would be last and the last would be first. Jesus taught that to be truly happy and blessed in this world, his followers must seek God and his kingdom above everything else. In fulfillment of the Jewish prophets, Jesus made the blind see and the lame walk. His healing wasn't just for physical ailments, though. People also came to him for spiritual renewal and transformation. Great crowds followed Jesus even into the wilderness to hear his teaching. The disciples were worried about feeding this huge multitude in such an isolated place. As the disciples worried and debated about what to do, a young boy offered five loaves of bread and two fish. Taking this small offering, Jesus broke and blessed the bread and fish, multiplying the food, miraculously feeding the entire crowd. After everyone had eaten, there were 12 baskets of leftovers. Jesus's divine power over physical resources was on full display in the abundance. Jesus proclaimed that he is the bread of life, not like the mana in the desert that God provided to Moses, but the true bread that provides eternal life.

Night fell on the Sea of Galilee like a heavy curtain. The waters a stage for an impending drama. Exhausted by long hours of teaching and healing, Jesus remained ashore. His disciples set out across the sea in a small fishing vessel made of wood. The sea, at once quiet and tranquil, transformed into a savage beast. Waves roared, wind shrieked. Then terror gripped the disciples hearts as tightly as they clutched the sides of the boat. Then a figure emerged from the high waves, treading an impossible path across the rocky waters. Fear turned to amazement as a familiar voice pierced the darkness. Jesus, calm amidst the chaos, approached the boat peacefully. Peter, his heart a tempest of its own, called out, "Lord, if it's

you, command me to come out to you." When Jesus signaled, Peter stepped into the impossible. For a heartbeat, he walked with the wind, buoyed by pure faith, though doubt insidious as the creeping tide pulled at his feet. As he began to sink, his cry split the night. "Lord, save me!" Jesus's hand shot out, a lifeline of divine grace. In that touch, the storm's fury dissipated like mist before dawn. As calm settled over the sea, a new understanding filled the disciples hearts. In Jesus, they glimpsed not just a teacher, but someone who even the winds and the sea obeyed. As the disciples grew to know Jesus better, they started to understand his ministry and mission.

One day, Jesus turned his penetrating gaze to Peter and asked, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter's response rang with certainty, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus spoke of a looming journey to Jerusalem, of suffering, death, and a promise of resurrection that fell on uncomprehending ears. Sensing their doubt, Jesus led Peter, James, and John up to the mountaintop. As they climbed, the air thinned and anticipation thickened. Jesus, their teacher and friend, changed before their eyes. He was transfigured so that his face blazed like the sun. His robes woven from pure light. Divine radiance poured from within, reshaping his form into something gloriously beyond mortal comprehension. His earlier words echoed in the stunned silence. I am the light of the world. no longer a metaphor but finding truth. In that dazzling moment, Peter, James, and John stood at the threshold of eternity. Their faith forged a new in the crucible of holy light.

Meanwhile, one of Jesus's closest friends, Lazarus, became sick and died. 4 days later, Jesus arrived at his tomb. Hope had withered, and the finality of loss had settled in the hearts of the mourners. Yet Jesus calmly called for the stone covering the entrance to the tomb to be rolled away. His voice, charged with divine authority, pierced the veil of death itself. "Lazarus, come out!" A collective gasp rippled through the crowd as movement

stirred within the tomb. Lazarus emerged, still bound in burial cloths, a living testament to Jesus's divine power. I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die. As Lazarus blinked in the harsh light of revived life, Jesus's followers stood transfixed, their minds grappling with the profound implications of this miracle. In this moment of triumph over death, Jesus prepared his followers for the trials that lay ahead. A promise of victory that would echo beyond his earthly ministry.

As Jesus demonstrated his power and authority through miracles and teachings, the plots against him increased. The Jewish leaders were threatened by his increasing popularity and swelling numbers of followers. In this tense atmosphere, Jesus and his closest friends gathered in the flickering candle light of the upper room. Shadows dancing on walls bathed in golden amber. Jesus the master became the servant. He knelt with a towel before his disciples. Peter resisted, "Lord, why are you washing my feet?" Jesus gently responded, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Even Judas the betrayer felt Jesus's loving touch. As night deepened, Jesus spoke with a very serious tone. Truly I say to you, one of you will betray me. Tension gripped the room. But then Jesus spoke with grace and love. A new commandment I give to you. Love one another as I have loved you. Then the pivotal moment arrived. Jesus broke apart the bread and blessed it, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me." and likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins." This was the first celebration of holy communion. This moment instituted the eucharist, the moment when the elements of bread and wine become the divine body and blood of Jesus. This gift of thanksgiving was freely given with the instruction, "Do this in memory of me." A gift that transcends time and space. As the disciples ate and drank, they shared not just in a meal, but in divine mystery. They received Christ himself, a foretaste of the eternal banquet. This covenant of love and sacrifice would conquer sin and death.

As the night waned, the meal ended. But its significance echoes throughout eternity. In the Eucharist, Jesus left us a promise whispered through tears that even on the darkest night, dawn would break and he would remain with his people always. The darkest night was about to begin.

In the hushed darkness of Gethsemane, Jesus knelt among the gnarled olive trees, praying. The garden's peace shattered as torches flared in the darkness and soldiers advanced. Rough hands seized Jesus, dragging him first to the Jewish religious leaders for a fraudulent trial, then to the court of the Roman leader in Jerusalem, Pontius Pilate.

As dawn broke over Jerusalem, Pilate, puzzled by this serene prisoner, asked, "Are you king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, his voice steady despite his bonds. "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over. Then you are a king, Pilate pressed. You say, I am a king, Jesus affirmed. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone who listens to the truth listens to my voice. Pilate's response echoes through the ages. What is truth? Pilate did not understand Jesus's meaning. But he understood the anger of the Jewish leaders and the bloodthirst of the crowd. So he turned Jesus over to be scourged by the Roman soldiers. An escalation of cruelty. Stripped and bound, Jesus endured the lash. Each stroke painting his body with pain from neck to heel. Jesus became unrecognizable as the Roman flag tore his flesh and bruised his body. Yet the crowd's thirst for blood remained unquenched. Crucify him, they roared. A tide of hatred, drowning reason and mercy. Pilate, giving into the mob, washed his hands. I am innocent of this man's blood, he declared. Water dripping from his fingers like the last vestigages of his authority.

The Roman soldiers mocked Jesus as king of the Jews by putting a purple robe on him and thrusting a crown of thorns on his head. This crown of thorns, shaped like a helmet, covered his entire scalp. The pain deepening with each brick, battered and bloodied, reeling from shock, dehydration, and blood loss, the cross beam of a wooden cross was lashed to his outstretched arms. In his exhaustion, Jesus fell to his knees in the dusty streets. With no way to break his fall, he crashed to the ground under the weight of the heavy beam. Finally, Jesus staggered outside the walls of the ancient city of Jerusalem to the hill known as Golgtha, the place of execution. Once again, Jesus was stripped naked, the wounds from the scourging continuing to bleed. Nails were hammered, one in each wrist and through his feet, anchoring him to the cross and sending lightning bolts of pain through his body. Yet even in his final moments, as his breath ebbed away, Jesus remained in control, offering forgiveness as he prayed for his tormentors with him. He spoke lovingly to his mother and his beloved disciple John, ensuring his mother would be cared for after his death. Finally, Jesus cried out to his father, Eliakani, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Quoting Psalm 22 of the great King David, a prayer that begins in despair, but ends proclaiming the authority of God. As he took upon himself the sins of all mankind, Jesus knew that he was fulfilling God's will by laying down his life for the salvation of the world. He bowed his head and breathed his last breath.

Documentary

The shroud of Turin is believed by many to be the actual burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth and it survives to this day. Not only does it contain the blood stains from a crucifixion, but it bears the faint full body image of a man who was tortured and crucified. While archaeologists have uncovered other ancient burial cloths, this burial cloth is the only one with an image.

Scientists have extensively studied the shroud to try to explain how this image was created. This mysterious image seems to validate the message that Jesus died and rose from the dead into his glorified body. Did he? Let's examine the evidence the shroud provides. The shroud of Turin has been conserved in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Turin, Italy since 1578. The shroud is rarely put on display for public viewing, but pilgrims can visit the chapel in the cathedral where it is safely stored in a specially designed case for its protection. Knowledge of the whereabouts of the shroud before the 14th century is incomplete, although some experts believe it was hidden to protect it from those trying to steal and destroy it. Historical evidence gives clues to its journey from Jerusalem to Turin. However, many details remain a mystery. We do know the shroud has survived multiple fires, long journeys, and many wars. During modern times, the shroud has been extensively studied by scientists, medical experts, archaeologists, and theologians because of the unique and unexplained image it contains. Not only that, but the man of the shroud has injuries that mirror the tortures endured by Jesus as described in the gospels. The shroud of Turin is a linen cloth that wrapped the body of a man who has been crucified. And we see the evidence of the nail wounds at the hands and feet. We see blood flows showing a crown of thorns and a pierced side and scourge marks up and down the body. In other words, all the sufferings that we read about from the historical literature is also what we see on this archaeological object. Let's explore some of the astounding features of the shroud and its mysterious image.

After his death, while he was still on the cross, the followers of Jesus covered his face with a small cloth out of respect. Rigor mortise, a stiffening of the muscles quickly set in. When the body was removed from the cross, the legs retained their bent shape and the head was forward and tilted to the right. The body was carried to the place of the tomb. The small face cloth was removed but kept nearby. And the large linen shroud was placed under the body and drawn over the head down to the feet, consistent with ancient Jewish burial practices. However, it is quite surprising that a man who had been so brutally murdered was buried in

such a fine and valuable fabric. The shroud is made of linen threads woven together from the fibers of the flax plant, which is known for its durability. This linen sheet is over 14 ft long and 3 1/2 ft wide, dimensions that equate to 8x2 Assyrian cubits, a commonly used measure in the first century. The distinctive herring bone weave created by three threads passing over one thread creates a pattern of diagonal lines resembling the skeleton of a fish. This weave is an ancient textile tradition that predates the time of Jesus. It was used in different parts of the world, but no other weave of this type has ever been discovered from this time period.

So, let's review what we know about the shroud's image. My favorite evidence about the shroud is in fact the complexity of the image. The fact that there are so many characteristics of the image that cannot be explained or replicated uh in the 21st century. I love that the the shroud has this paradox. It is neither reproducible nor is it falsifiable. That is the ultimate paradox. Here is an image of what the original linen might have looked like when it was first created. It was white before it discolored over time through natural aging. Next, let's remove the body image and just look at the blood stains. The blood stains are underneath the body image on the shroud. So, we know the blood was there before the image was created. There are also bright red blood stains all over the fabric that correspond with over 370 wounds recorded on the man of the shroud. Next, we see what the shroud would look like if it only had the image of the body on it. The image is completely superficial, only on the surface of the threads. It does not penetrate the cell wall of the flax fibers. In fact, the image is only two microns thick. The image is so thin it could easily be scraped off with a razor blade. Now, let's combine those two layers. This is perhaps how the shroud would have looked when it was found in the tomb that first Easter morning. There are water marks visible on the shroud, believed to have been formed when the folded shroud was hidden in a scroll jar at some point in its history.

The most visible feature on the shroud are the many burn marks. The shroud has survived multiple fires. We know the shroud has been through

at least three fires. The second fire happened in 1532 that nearly destroyed it. The shroud was folded in a metal box lined with silver when the chapel where it was housed caught fire. Quick action saved the fabric from total destruction. However, hot molten metal burned through parts of the shroud, leaving burn and singe marks along the fold lines. In 1534, the poor clar nuns patched the holes, sewing triangular patches onto the damaged areas. There was also a fire which broke out during the night in Chapel of Guini next to the Cathedral of Turin in 1997. But the shroud was rescued and the fire did not alter the image.

Scientists became even more interested when the shroud was photographed for the first time in 1898 by an amateur photographer named Secondo Pia. In those days to create a print of a photograph it was necessary to create a photographic negative which reverses the light and darks of the original subject.

As Seondo pia was creating his photographic negative of the shroud, he discovered it revealed a much more lifelike and realistic image of the man of the shroud than can be seen with the naked eye. While developing the very first photograph of the shroud, Secondo pia realized he was seeing clearly the face of Jesus for the first time in almost 2,000 years. This began the modern era of scientific scrutiny of the shroud with forensic doctors examining the body image and confirming its anatomical perfection. Art historians examined the historical depictions of Jesus over the centuries and noted a striking similarity to the image of the man of the shroud.

In the 1970s, Swiss criminologist Dr. Max Frie collected sticky tape samples from the shroud fabric that contained pollen grains and mineral particles. Pollen from the Middle Eastern plant species were found, some of which only grow in southern Israel, western Jordan, and the Sinai. In 1976, physicists from the United States Air Force Academy analyzed a photograph of the shroud with a VP8 image analyzer. I made a correlation between image intensity and cloth body distance because I could take a picture of him laying on the shroud with the shroud over him. take a picture of from the side and then we take that off and take another picture.

Then you've got two pictures that are overlays and you get the distance between the two because you know the scale. So then I started correlating image intensity along that ridge line with the cloth body distance and lo and behold I saw that there was a correlation that they were arranging themselves around a correlation line and I thought yes there's this distance information encoded into the shroud.

Unlike any other known image, this discovery allowed scientists to create a three-dimensional figure of the body wrapped in the shroud. The discovery of three-dimensional information encoded in the shroud image led to the creation of a team of elite scientists to perform a comprehensive multidisciplinary examination of the shroud. The team was known as STURP or Shroud of Turin research project. STURP was composed of more than two dozen highly qualified chemists, photographers, physicists, biophysicists, computer scientists, and other experts. The goal of the Stup team was to determine the physical and chemical properties of the image on the shroud and try to understand what might have caused it.

This was not a religious quest, but purely scientific. The STURP team worked around the clock for 5 days using the most technologically advanced equipment of the day, being careful not to damage the shroud fabric. They took X-rays, photographs using ultraviolet and fluorescent lighting, and performed microchemistry tests. They took microphotographs at 60 times magnification to get detailed close-up information on the threads of the linen. This multidisciplinary STURP examination revealed astonishing new and critical information about the shroud. X-rays and pyrolysis mass spectrometry analysis revealed there are no pigments, dyes, paints, or stains found on the fibers of the linen cloth. After their extensive study of the shroud, Sturup's official summary stated, "We can conclude for now that the shroud image is that of a human form of a scourged crucified man. It is not the product of an artist." Sturp discovered the image was a chemical change in the outermost fibers of the threads, and the image does not penetrate the cell wall of the fibers. In fact, the depth of the image on the surface of the fibers is less than half

the thickness of a human hair. Scientists think the yellow brownish color of the body image was caused by oxidation and dehydration of the cellulose in the fibers. These fibers within the image aged more rapidly than the non-image fibers. The image does not soak through the fabric. In fact, when the shroud is photographed with transmitted light from behind, the image completely disappears while the burn marks and blood stains remain clearly visible. It is best to view the shroud image from about 6 ft away. Up close, the image becomes indistinct and difficult to see. The STURP team also concluded the blood on the shroud is real blood containing proteins and hemoglobin. The blood also contains high levels of Bilirubin, which is a response to extreme physical trauma. This could also explain why the blood has retained its bright red color over the centuries. Significantly, there is no image under the blood stains, indicating the blood was on the shroud before the image was formed.

All these factors together provide strong scientific evidence that this is genuine blood from someone who suffered greatly. There are more than 370 wound marks all over the body image that tell a powerful story of immense suffering matching exactly the gospel accounts of Jesus's passion and crucifixion. In 1988, the shroud was radiocarbonated. One small strip was cut from a corner of the shroud from an area of the shroud that was known to have been frequently handled and perhaps even repaired in the past. This single strip was then divided into small postage stamp- sized pieces and sent to three laboratories for testing. The laboratories reported the age of the fabric to date from 1260 to 1390. News was reported around the world that the shroud was proven to be a medieval fake. However, in 2016, a statistical analysis of the raw data from the laboratories revealed that even though the small samples were right next to each other, they had different dates. This means that the fabric tested was not representative of the whole cloth and invalidates the results. Recent methods of dating have concluded the linen was manufactured around the first century AD.

The gospels record that Pontius Pilate had Jesus scourged in an attempt

to pacify the angry crowd. The shroud reveals a brutal scourging consistent with the use of a Roman flagrum, a whip-like instrument of torture. This flagrum, also known as a fleellum, with small metal balls or sharp objects attached to leather straps. The scourge marks on the shroud show a pattern of dumbbell-shaped bruises consistent with the metal balls on a flagrum. Perhaps the most unusual wounds depicted on the shroud are the 50 plus puncture wounds all over the head and nape of the neck, which appear to be from a cap or helmet of thorns. We know from the historical record that no other person in history was crucified with a crown of thorns. Almost all paintings depict the crown of thorns as a circlet going around the head above the ears. However, according to the wounds found on the shroud image, it was more likely a clump of thorns in the shape of a helmet that was pushed down into Jesus's scalp and covered his entire head. The shroud shows three wounds of crucifixion, one in the wrist and two through the feet. One hand is crossed over the other, so only one exit wound in the wrist is visible.

Artists almost always depict Jesus's nails passing through the palms of his hands. But forensic doctors agree that the nail placement at the base of the palm with an exit through the wrist area is the only method that is strong enough to securely hold a body in an upright position on a cross. The feet were also nailed to the cross with the knees bent. This allowed the victim to push against the nails to move up and down to inhale and exhale as long as he had the strength and energy. Most crucifixion victims died from asphyxiation when they became too exhausted to make this effort to breathe. The Roman soldiers were responsible for ensuring their victims were truly dead. So, one soldier used his lance to pierce the side of Jesus. The shroud has an ovalshaped wound between the fifth and sixth ribs on the right side. It matches exactly the double-edged blade used by the Romans. Plural fluid had built up around Jesus's heart from the repeated beatings and falls he had endured. After death, when the heart was no longer circulating blood, the blood components separated into heavy red blood cells and clear plural serum. It is this clear fluid that John saw pouring forth from Jesus's side and described as water. This was not

clearly understood until the shroud was photographed in 1978 by the STRP team using ultraviolet fluorescent photography. These photographs revealed for the first time the clear serum halos around the bright red blood stains that are not evident to the naked eye. Scientists know from examining the shroud that the image was created while the body was still in rigor mortise, which only lasts about 40 hours after death. This means that sometime between midnight and 5:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, this mysterious image was formed. Was the shroud image created at the very moment of Jesus's bodily resurrection?

Modern-day historians and scientists are intrigued by these questions. No one has ever been able to reproduce all the physical and chemical properties of the shroud image, even with the tools and methods of modern science. The shroud's image introduces a remarkable scientific mystery, capturing details of the body parts that never even touched the cloth. This non-cont imaging suggests an action at a distance process that is characteristic of radiation. Only one theory known as the particle radiation theory can explain the various features of the shroud, including the three-dimensional encoding and equal intensity of the front and back images. How often do dead bodies uh emanate a 100,000 search lights worth of light energy for 140 billionth of a second? I mean, never. It is scientifically and naturalistically inexplicable. a miracle supernatural. What would it have been like to have been in the sealed tomb at the moment of the resurrection?

It was early in the morning on Sunday and still dark when Mary Magdalene, steeped in grief, set off to the tomb where she had seen Jesus's body placed on Friday evening. When she reached the tomb, she was shocked to see that the heavy stone had been rolled away. Mary immediately ran to where the followers of Jesus were hiding for fear of their own lives. She tearfully reported, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him."

In the pale light of dawn, Peter rushed forth alongside his fellow disciple, their hearts pounding as they raced toward the burial chamber. Though both men sprinted with desperate urgency, the younger disciples swift feet carried him ahead, bringing him first to the shadowed entrance. He bent low to peer into the darkness to where the white linens were still lying in the otherwise empty tomb. Yet something held him back from entering. Moments later, Simon Peter arrived breathless behind him and plunged straight into the tomb. There, Peter stood staring, but still not understanding the meaning of the empty grave. Clothes spread before him. And most striking of all, the facecloth that had covered his master's head, now carefully folded and set apart from the large linen burial cloth. Finally, the first disciple gathered his courage and stepped inside as well. And he saw and believed, for until that moment, they had not truly grasped the ancient prophecies that foretold their Lord must conquer death itself and rise from the dead.

But later Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. And as she wept, she bent down to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" Mary Magdalene said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have taken his body." Having said this, she turned around and saw a man standing nearby that she thought was the gardener. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping, Whom are you seeking?" She said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabonai," which means, "Teacher, do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the father, but go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my father and your father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, I have seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her.

In the gospels, we are told that after his resurrection, Jesus appeared before his disciples in a locked room in his resurrected and glorified form. The first words he said were, "Peace be with you." Jesus himself is peace and he offers it freely to everyone who believes in him. Thomas, one of the twelve apostles, was not with him during this first appearance of Jesus. But the other disciples excitedly told him, "We have seen the Lord." But Thomas said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails and placed my hand into his side, I will never believe." The following week, the disciples were gathered again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and put out your hand and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord, my God." Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

The dusty road to Emmaus stretched before them as two weary disciples made their way from Jerusalem, their shoulders heavy with grief. The 7-mile journey felt longer as they wrestled with the devastating events of the past days, their voices low and troubled as they tried to make sense of it all. A stranger fell into step beside them, his presence unremarkable in their grief clouded eyes. "What troubles you so?" he asked, his voice gentle. They halted, despair etched on their faces. Cleopas looked at him with disbelief. "Surely you're the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard." When prompted, their story poured out like a flood. Tales of Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet whose mighty works had filled them with hope, only to be crucified at the insistence of their own religious leaders. Their voices trembled as they spoke of their shattered dreams for Israel's redemption. And now they continue. This morning, some women of our group reported the tomb empty, speaking of angels proclaiming him alive. Others confirmed the empty tomb, but the stranger's voice suddenly took

on an edge of authority. How foolish you are and slow to believe. His words caught them off guard as he began to weave together ancient prophecies, unveiling their meaning with such clarity that the journey seemed to pass in moments. As dusk painted the sky in deep purples, the trio approached Emmaus. Cleopas invited the stranger to join them for the evening meal. Around the table, as he, the mysterious traveler, blessed and broke the bread, something extraordinary happened. Recognition flooded their minds like a sudden dawn. But in the very moment that they recognized Jesus, he vanished. The two stared at each other, understanding, flooding their thoughts. Were not our hearts burning within us as he taught? Without a thought for the late hour, they rushed back to Jerusalem, bursting in upon the 11 apostles, who greeted them with their own incredible news. The Lord has risen indeed and has appeared to Simon. Then they added their own testimony, the mysterious meeting on the road and their moment of encounter with the risen Jesus.

The first light of dawn painted the Sea of Tiberius in soft pastels. The morning mist still clinging to the water's surface. Exhausted fishermen slouched in their boat after a fruitless night's work, drifting nets with nothing but seater. Through the morning haze, a figure appeared on the shoreline. Though his features were hazy in the early light, a stranger called across the water, a voice warm and familiar, "Have you caught anything to eat?" The discouraged apostles could only shake their heads, calling back a weary, "No." The stranger's next words carried an air of certainty. "Try the right side of your boat. You'll find what you're looking for there. Perhaps it was desperation. Or perhaps something in his voice stirred their hope. The weary fishermen cast their nets once more. Suddenly, the ropes pulled taut. The net so full they couldn't haul it aboard. The disciple whom Jesus loved gazed at the shore. Recognition on his face. It is the Lord. Simon Peter didn't wait for a second confirmation. Hastily, he plunged into the sea, leaving his companions to manage the miraculous catch. After rowing to shore, the rest of the crew stumbled onto the beach and found a welcome sight. A charcoal fire

already crackling, fish sizzling above the flames and bread waiting nearby. Jesus gestured to their overwhelming catch. "Bring some of your fish," Peter dripping but eager, hoisted the net ashore, 153 large fish. "Come," Jesus said simply, "Have breakfast." A holy hush fell over the group. None dared ask who he was. They knew with unshakable certainty that their Lord stood before them. As he had done so many times before, Jesus took the bread, blessed it, and shared it among them, followed by the fish. In the growing light of morning, they shared their meal with the risen Lord. Each moment etching itself into their memories forever.

As the golden sunlight poured over the hills of Bethany, Jesus gathered his closest followers around him. They pressed in eagerly, asking, "Lord, is now the time you will restore Israel's kingdom?" With gentle wisdom in his eyes, Jesus replied, "The Father alone sets these times and seasons," "This knowledge isn't yours to have, but take heart. The Holy Spirit will soon fill you with power, and you'll carry my message from Jerusalem through Judea and Samaria, reaching to the very ends of the earth." Standing before them, Jesus raised his hands in blessing. As his words of benediction washed over them, Jesus commissioned them to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. He left them with the promise that I am with you always. He began to rise from the ground, ascending higher and higher until a brilliant cloud enveloped him. His followers stood transfixed, necks craned toward the heavens, when suddenly two angels in dazzling white appeared beside them. Men of Galilee, they said, why do you stand here staring at the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven will return just as you have seen him go into heaven. Filled with wonder and joy, his followers turned and made their way back to Jerusalem, their hearts burning with all they had witnessed.

The Christian faith hinges on belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus. The Apostle Paul wrote, "If Jesus has not been raised, our preaching is useless,

and so is your faith. For followers of Jesus, the resurrection transcends mere historical fact. As a Christian, your personal faith leads you to experience the living and risen Jesus in four remarkable ways. Through the gathering of believers, the risen Jesus dwells among us. As the Gospel of Matthew tells us, when two or more are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them. Within the sacred scriptures, we encounter the risen Jesus.

As St. John Paul II says, "The risen Christ walks alongside us, opens the scriptures to us, and breaks bread with us. He reveals himself in the word and in the Eucharist, but always as the one who was crucified." The risen Jesus is present through ordained ministers who stand as spiritual leaders and shepherds of the community. In their sacred role, they embody the person of Jesus. On the night before his death, Jesus bestowed a precious gift upon the church, the Eucharist. In this holy communion, Christians directly participate in his sacrifice on the cross, joining in union with Jesus. The sacred act serves as both remembrance and renewed experience of his sacrifice, offering grace and deepening one's bond with God. Every time we come forward to receive the communion, we see the long white cloth covering the altar, a reminder of the long white shroud that wrapped Jesus's body in death, and the silent witness to the split second when he opened his eyes in resurrected glory.

In the words of blessed Sebastian Vfrey, the cross received the living Jesus and gave him back to us dead. The shroud received the dead Jesus and restored him to us alive. In these modern times, we have the holy shroud as a gift to our age. We can look on the holy face of Jesus on the shroud and know that through his resurrection, he triumphed over sin and death. He left behind the imprint of his wounded body for us to probe and study with the tools of modern science. But our hearts are drawn to the mystery of the promises of Jesus, eternity with him in heaven. Jesus told us that he is the light of the world and the bread of life. Light created the miraculous

image on the shroud when his dead body was resurrected with eternal life.

And we are spiritually sustained by the gift of bread and wine that is transformed into his body and blood at every mass through the Eucharist and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is with us always as he promised until the end of the age. Today, the Shroud of Turin invites us to probe its mysteries and open our eyes to look deeper. Jesus encourages us to be like John when he entered the tomb with the empty burial linens. He saw and believed. Jesus challenges us to attest to our faith with the same question he posed to his apostles. Who do you say that I am?