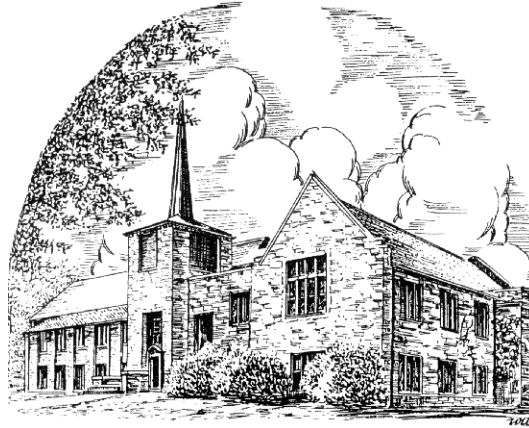


In some early Christian literature, such as the gospel of Thomas or the work called Q there appears to have been relatively little interest in the resurrection. In these works it is the life and ministry of Jesus which receive the focus. The four gospels of the New Testament all devote space to the life and teachings of Jesus, but the climax of all four is the resurrection.

Each of the early testimonies to the resurrection has a point the author is trying to make. From Paul, the earliest written account of the resurrection, to John, the last of the four gospels in the New Testament the resurrection is integral to the message. There are, however, a number of differences in the stories the gospels present. The differences tie with the unique perspective of each gospel.

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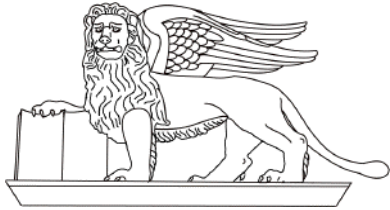
**Sunday evenings from March 11**  
**Time: 7:00 - 8:00**



Etching by Rembrandt, The Three Crosses, first edition, 1653

# **Different Views of the Resurrection**

The story of the crucifixion and resurrection that most people have in their heads represents a patchwork made up of bits and pieces from the different gospels and other sources, fused together into a story which doesn't actually correspond to any of the four gospels even though they serve as the basis for the story we carry with us.



### March 11 - Paul and Mark

The oldest written account of Resurrection comes from the pen of Paul, in I Corinthians 15. For the apostle to the gentiles, seeking to bring peace to the factions at Corinth, the good news of the resurrection was a reminder of the hope all followers of Jesus should look toward.

As the generation which knew Jesus began to die out it became necessary to put the stories of Jesus down in written form. Mark, the earliest of the four canonical gospels, ends abruptly. The risen Jesus is announced, but not seen.

Early Christians found the ending so unusual that other ends were added to Mark. And debate on whether Mark intended to end his gospel like this, or somehow the original ends was 'lost' continue to this day.



### March 18 - The Gospel of Matthew

Matthew draws on the traditions of Mark, but expands them to present a complete picture of the resurrection. The traditions found in the gospel of Matthew appear to have been the basis for the more elaborate resurrection story in what is called the gospel of Peter.



### March 25 - The Gospel of Luke

The gospel we call Luke appears to know the traditions of Mark, but the gospel's focus on the church in Jerusalem -- central to Acts, the second volume of the story -- cause him to present a different picture of the resurrection



### April 1 - The Gospel of John

John, the last of the four gospels of the New Testament to be written, differs from the others in a number of dramatic ways. In the other three the last meal Jesus eats with his disciples is a Passover Seder. In John's gospel it explicitly is not a Passover Seder. The stories of the crucifixion and resurrection also differ from the versions found in the Synoptic gospels.

Debate continues on the relationship between John and the Synoptics. Despite the differences between John and the Synoptics, however, there is some evidence to suggest that John, as we have it today, reflects an effort reconcile differences between the resurrection accounts found in Mark and Matthew and the version found in Luke.