

Appearances of Jesus Monday within the Octave of Easter April 22, 2019 Acts 2:14, 22-33; **Mt 28:8-15** (It was the breaking into of something totally new and different, so much so there is no language for it.)

When it comes to the details of the resurrection and the appearances of Jesus the four evangelists diverge. Mark basically simply says the tomb was empty, and in the original gospel he wrote, that's it, that's the end of the gospel. Later someone added some more, borrowing from the other gospels, but **Mark ends it with the empty tomb, leaving the reader to figure everything out.** **Matthew** says that Jesus appears to the women who have visited the tomb and found it empty, and tells them, **“Tell my brothers to go to Galilee; I will see them there.”** **Luke** says that **Jesus starts walking with these two disciples on their way to Emmaus** and reveals himself in the breaking of bread, and then they scurry back to the cenacle where the apostles are holed up. And then **John** says **Jesus appears to the apostles that evening, not in Galilee. So what really happened?** Well, we don't know, and **apparently the evangelists weren't quite sure themselves.**

But these stories circulated in various ways, and they all say that **the resurrection of Jesus was a very mysterious thing, and it can't really be described.** They really couldn't put their arms around it. They know something happened. How much of this is their trying to explain something completely ineffable later on, Jesus appearances for example? I doubt very much they were simply like running into an old friend. For example the disciples on the road to Emmaus didn't even recognize him for quite a while. What the upper room was like, I have no idea. But **this is not life as usual.** This was the breaking down—the breaking down—of the ordinary way people have of perceiving reality. And it was the **breaking into of something totally new and different, so much so there is no language for it.** And the reality behind it is not the accuracy of the descriptions of the evangelists but, rather, the fact that **these people all marched into martyrdom in order to witness to the power of new life.** That testimony cannot be blotted out or, I might add, edited.