



# EASTER SUNDAY

## Easter Sunday

“Seven Stanzas At Easter”

Matthew 28:1-10

**THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION IS NEW LIFE**

### **IT'S EASTER SUNDAY—CHRIST IS RISEN!**

**A Day of Holy Obligation for the Faithful** —We bring the whole crew, our fit is photo ready, and even those of us who may have given up, give in a little.

**Today, we're going to read an impossible story—a story that makes all things possible.**

### **Matthew 28:1-10**

*Four Gospels, four different versions...*

*But they all have one thing in common*

**The tomb is empty in every one of them—without exception.**

**It's easy to reduce this to a feeling—a metaphor for the transcendent.**

**But to do so—reduces all of Christianity to a nice idea.**

### **THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION IS NEW LIFE**

#### **Time for an English Lit class: Updike's “Seven Stanzas at Easter”**

- *Background—written in 1960 while he worshipped at a Lutheran church.*
- *Updike echoes Paul's claim in 1 Corinthians 15*
- *Resurrection was not like the “soft Spring” flowers—it was Jesus' body.*
- *“Let us walk through the door” - anything else mocks God*
- *“Let us not make it less monstrous for our own convenience.”*

#### **A History Lesson in Resurrection Art**

- *The older versions had this universality to them—Adam & Eve.*
- *They gave way to a triumphant interpretation. Jesus alone.*
- *One has a decided connectedness to humanity, to materiality.*
- *The other transcends all of it. It's also easier to dismiss.*

**You and I matter to God. Our matter... matters.**

**This is not the end—we will rise. And until then—we should live like this all matters... because it does.**

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## SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

### **FOR FURTHER READING:**

*A Way Other Than Our Own: Devotions for Lent*  
Walter Brueggeman

*Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter*  
Rowan Williams

*The Art of Lent: A Painting A Day from Ash Wednesday to Easter*  
Sister Wendy Beckett

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