

## How Peter found strength after the death of Jesus

Bewildered and perplexed, lost and alone.  
He's gone! And yet it feels as if He's still here.

*[Image of the Risen Christ]*

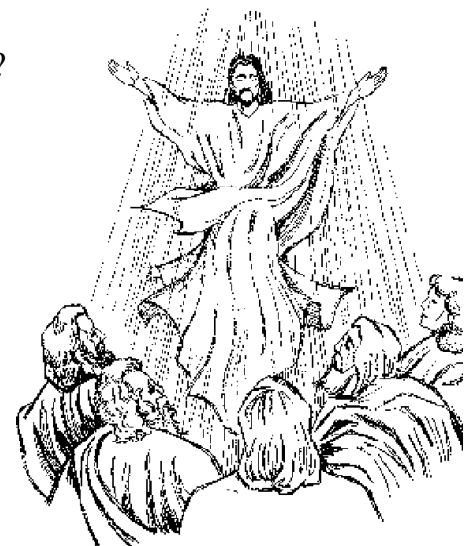
He died - and yet we saw Him alive  
for forty days after His death.  
We talked with Him, walked with Him, ate with Him -  
here, in the Upper Room;  
on the beach at Lake Tiberias;  
and finally, near Bethany, where He was taken away,  
out of our sight.



For ten days now, we have gathered here:  
his closest friends,  
reliving every moment we spent with Him,  
retracing every step we walked with Him,  
recalling every word we heard from Him.  
Trying, trying to understand.  
He did - we all saw it.  
He rose from death - or were we all  
dreaming?  
No! He returned as He had promised,  
and explained to us all how He had *had* to  
suffer  
and die to fulfil the scriptures:

and how the scriptures had also foretold His resurrection.

But what confuses us most is His parting instruction:  
To stay here and wait. Wait for what?  
For Him to come back again in all His glory from the clouds?  
No. He promised us 'the gift from the Father....  
The Power from above...' What did He mean?  
We were to be His witnesses ....What did He mean?  
O Lord - You told me to feed Your lambs  
and tend and feed Your sheep.  
What did You mean? Help me!  
Strengthen me, so that I may never deny You again,  
as I denied You in the High Priest's yard.



Now they are ready to seize us again:  
The leaders of the people were angered  
when the Roman soldiers told them that the tomb was empty.  
They bribed them to say we took Your body,  
And if we try to contradict them, we will be taken,  
and tortured, and imprisoned until we agree.



O Jesus, I don't want to deny You again!  
And yet.....Wait. What's that sound?  
A wind. A strong wind, blowing through the room  
like a gale.  
But - but nothing is moving; there isn't even a  
breeze.  
And now - see! Fire! Tongues of it, on you -  
And you -and....yes! On me too!  
Now. Now I understand.  
Now all is made clear.  
Listen: each of us is speaking in foreign languages.  
Everyone will be able to understand us.

Now we know that Jesus is Lord, the Christ,  
the Son of the Living God,  
who died, yet was raised to life by God.

Come, my brothers. Filled with the Holy Spirit  
Let us go down to the people of Jerusalem,  
So that they too may hear and understand, and be saved....

### Tasks

1. Listen to the CD and then read this poem again.
2. Describe what Peter did just before Jesus died. [*Clue Mark 15*]
3. Describe how Peter felt after the death of Jesus.
4. Jesus had told Peter, 'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep'. What do you think this meant?
5. How do you think Peter found strength to carry out his mission?
6. What kind of person do you think Peter became?