

Scriptures: April 19, 2026

Modern Testimony

Contemporary Reading of Psalm 116

One: I love the Lord because God hears me when I cry and pray,

Yes, God bent God's ear down to me, and I'll talk about it the rest of my life!

I was caught in a dead end.

The cramp of the grave had a hold on me;
pain and trouble kept hurting.

So I called out loud on the name of the Lord:
Lord God, please! Get me out—save my life!

**Many: You are full of mercy serving justice to all,
but your God compassion overflows!**

One: The Lord God takes loving care of those open to temptation—
when I was cut down to size, God took care of me—
so calm down, fellow; the Lord has given you what was good!

Many: That is true!

You got me out of the dead end.

You have stopped my eyes from filling with tears!

You have kept me from walking into ruin—Yes!

One: What shall I give the Lord God?

God has given me so many wonderful surprises.

I know, I shall toast God with the cup of victory—

I will do what I vowed the Lord God I would too,
and I'll do it for all of God's people.

Many: Yes, I will really offer thanksgiving to you!

**I will do what I vowed to God,
and I'll do it among the faithful,
near the house of the Lord God,
right in the middle of Jerusalem—
Glory, Hallelujah, Amen!**

Ancient Testimony

Luke 24:13-35

Eating with the risen Christ

The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad.^[b] ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' ¹⁹ He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth,^[c] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.^[d] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' ²⁵ Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah^[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to

each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us^[1] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.