

## ‘I send you!’

Those who saw him stumbling down the stairs must have thought Peter was drunk. When he reached the street he began walking in a daze. Jesus had just appeared for the second time. The doors had been locked, the windows closed. Yet, Jesus was suddenly in their midst. Thomas had even stuck his fingers into the wounds from the cross and the sword. Like God breathing life into Adam, Jesus had breathed on them. Peter’s mind was drenched with the miracle it could not contain. Peter staggered through the streets as the downpour of thoughts pelted him like raindrops.

The Feast of the Unleavened Bread was now over and Peter shouldered his way through the crowds of pilgrims who were exiting the city. People had flocked into Jerusalem to be present for these high holy days. They had come from all the cities of Judah and Idumea, Edom, Decapolis and Galilee. Now, loaded with purchases, they were hurrying home. Seeing them about him, Peter began to think about his own return to Galilee. He wondered how the boat was doing with no one to tend it.

He hadn’t noticed, but his brother Andrew was walking at his side. Andrew pulled Peter to a stop. Their eyes met in silent exchange of the experience they had just shared. “Where are you going?” Andrew asked, since Peter had seemed to be wandering. Peter rubbed his hands together and looked around him for fear of the authorities that might be looking for the rest of Jesus’ followers.

“I don’t know. I was thinking about the boat. I’m trying to decide what to do now. He must want us to go back to Galilee. Last week Mary told us that, remember?”

Andrew nodded. “It’s dangerous to stay here in Jerusalem.

In the midst of Andrew’s sentence, Jesus’ freshly spoken words suddenly returned to Peter: “He said send. We should go now. Andrew, go tell the rest. Jesus said ‘I send you,’ remember?”

The downpour of thoughts continued to deluge Peter. To be “sent” also meant he was starting a solemn mission. All that Jesus had taught and preached had to somehow continue. A strange peace soothed Peter and without words, he knew that he was being filled with courage, grace and power.



The disciples left Jerusalem separately, mingling in with the crowds of departing Pilgrims. As Peter passed unnoticed under the Damascus gate he felt a soar of excitement course through him. Following the north road he began to smile to himself. He knew he was no longer alone. God was with him, Jesus was at his side, and the Holy Spirit had completely filled his heart.



In each of our lives Jesus appears. Just as he came to the Disciples in the secret locked room, he comes in the secret of our locked heart. There, where no one else may go, he finds us and fills us with peace and says “As the father has sent me, so I send you.” And with those words he commissions us to love one another, to forgive one another, and to hold one another accountable. Like Peter, we are filled with the courage to take a stand and to stand up for what is right and just. It is then that we truly become Christians, followers of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.