

Where Did Jesus Go When He Died?

Death → Burial → Descent → Resurrection → Ascension

Day and Event

Summarized in the Creed

Described in Scripture

Maundy Thursday

The Last Supper

(the night he was betrayed)

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread ... (1 Corinthians 11:23)

Jesus said: "See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand." (Matthew 26:45-46)

Good Friday

Trial and Crucifixion

(the first day of his death)

"he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried"

[The thief on the cross] said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:42-43)

Holy Saturday

In the Tomb

(the second day of his death)

"he descended into Hell"
(literally: "he descended to the lower regions" = what is called Sheol in the OT and Hades in the NT)

He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey... (1 Peter 3:18-20)

What does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? (Ephesians 4:9-10)

For all of them are handed over to death, to the world below; along with all mortals, with those who go down to the Pit. (Ezek 31:14)

Easter Sunday

The Resurrection

(the third day of his death)

"on the third day he rose again"

Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there... (Luke 24:21-23)

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb... Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" (John 20:11, 17)

40 Days Later ...

The Ascension

(40 days after rising to life)

"he ascended into heaven"

After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God ... As they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. (Acts 1:3, 9)

He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things. (Ephesians 4:10)