

# *SOUL FOOD*

*April: May 2017*



*He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the  
place where the Lord lay.  
Matthew 28:6*

After Jesus dies, the angel rolls back the stone, which means that **divine truth was being opened up and revealed**. Guards faint and women are terrified as the sudden appearance of a heavenly presence was scary and overwhelming. Jesus appears to the disciples in a locked room, marking a unique instance of the spiritual becoming physical.

In Luke, Jesus walks with two disciples to Emmaus and tells them **about how the details of the Old Testament describe his own journey on earth**. "And they said to one another, '**Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?**'" (Luke 24:32). What did he open? There has to be something all new in there because of their shock and awe. This whole episode develops the idea that there is always more to be discovered, more to be known and understood, even when we think we know everything.

**The Individual Easter** (excerpts from Swedenborg Foundation summary of Curtis Childs off the left eye)

The disciples were in a horrible situation when Jesus disappeared. All of a sudden, these poor guys were left—they had planned their life around something that just disappeared. What about life feeling like that for us? **There are times of crushing defeat, of struggle and turmoil, and of difficulty**. In our lives, we continually follow the same pattern of resurrection.

In our own lives, we are surrounded by these changes. **Through regeneration**, there is so much potential **to be more than you were before**. Swedenborg writes about this human process in great detail, using **the three-day period as a symbol for the regenerative process**:

In our own lives, our **resurrection happens when we go through hard things and come through them with new insights and ways of living**.

**Matthew 27:52, 53** says that graves opened and many bodies of sleeping saints rose again and left their graves after the Lord's resurrection, entered the holy city, and appeared to many. This involves the same meaning, namely rising again, because of the Lord's resurrection; and, in a deeper sense, every resurrection.

**(Secrets of Heaven §2916:4)**

Think about the very first winter. You would think that it was the end of the world. However, we know that spring comes. This happens in our internal lives as well as in the natural world—we go through states of coldness and separation

from love, and it feels like the end of the world. But new stages of growth and change and **happiness follow those periods of darkness.**

You've lived through despair and sadness. When we talk about the freeing of the captives, we're talking about ourselves as well. God came to rescue all of us with the truth—it will set us free.

A passage from Swedenborg's writings illustrates **how the dawn can symbolize the beginning of a new spiritual understanding inside us.**

God comes to us in our lives during those dark times. He's the dawn for each of us. This is the promise that is within the Easter story—a promise of good things to come after the struggle and sadness. **The dawning of the Lord's kingdom for each person saves us and brings us closer to God.**

### **Calendar for April / May**

**No services at McDougall House in April. In May on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	10:30am Morning Worship Followed by a shared meal.	The Environment Centre Groat St, North Beach
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	10:30am <b>Easter Morning</b> Worship and Sunday School followed by shared meal.	The Environment Centre Groat St, North Beach ( Rev T Moffat)
Sunday 7 May	10.30am Morning Worship Followed by shared meal.	The Environment Centre Groat St, North Beach
Sunday 14 May	10:30am Morning Worship and Sunday School. <b>Mothers' Day, no shared meal.</b>	McDougall House Clydesdale Road
Sunday 21 May	10:30am Morning Worship Followed by <b>morning tea.</b>	The Environment Centre Groat St, North Beach
28 May	10:30am Morning Worship and Sunday School followed by shared meal.	McDougall House Clydesdale Road

**Birthdays** April – Mary and Annaleen 22<sup>nd</sup>

May – Amy 1<sup>st</sup> Jason 2<sup>nd</sup>

***We are all created to become angels of Heaven  
which is a kingdom of communities.***

*Based on the Holy Bible, **The New Church** gains further inspiration and understanding through the Heavenly Doctrines revealed by the Lord and published by 18th century scientist and theologian **Emanuel Swedenborg**. In the 35 volumes of this new Revelation we see the Lord's plan for a rebirth of Christianity, a clear vision of God in His own Word, and what that means in our lives.*

*Sunday school and short Worship Services are held at  
10.30am on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.  
McDougall House, Clydesdale St, Como.*

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