

# Dear Padre,

***In the Apostles' Creed, we profess that Jesus "descended into hell." Is there any biblical reference to this? Do we know what he did when he was there?***

Jesus Christ—who experienced death completely—descended to the realm of death. By his resurrection from the dead on the third day, he conquered death and the devil, “who has the power of death” (Hebrews 2:14). Other scriptural references include Acts 3:15, Romans 8:11, 1 Corinthians 15:20, and Hebrews 13:20. An ancient homily for Holy Saturday also attests to this belief: “God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began....Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow Adam in his bonds and Eve, captive with him....I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead.”

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned, nor to destroy the hell of damnation, but to free the just who had gone before him” (CCC 633). His descent was to proclaim the Good News to the spirits imprisoned there, bringing “the Gospel message of salvation to complete fulfillment” to all people of all times and all places (CCC 634). Thus, “the gospel was preached even to the dead” (1 Peter 4:6). ●

**Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)**



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***It is not always easy to discern the Good Shepherd's voice. Be careful. There is always the risk of being distracted by the din of so many other voices. Today we are invited not to let ourselves be distracted by the false wisdom of this world, but to follow Jesus...the one sure guide....***

**REGINA CAELI, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, MAY 7, 2017**

### MONDAY

May 1  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 11:1–18  
Jn 10:11–18

### TUESDAY

May 2  
*St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*  
Acts 11:19–26  
Jn 10:22–30

### WEDNESDAY

May 3  
*Sts. Philip and James, Apostles*  
1 Cor 15:1–8  
Jn 14:6–14

### THURSDAY

May 4  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 13:13–25  
Jn 13:16–20

### FRIDAY

May 5  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 13:26–33  
Jn 14:1–6

### SATURDAY

May 6  
*Weekday*  
Acts 13:44–52  
Jn 14:7–14

### SUNDAY

May 7  
*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 6:1–7  
1 Pt 2:4–9  
Jn 14:1–12

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