

John 20:19-31
The Resurrection, the Spirit, and Faith
January 3, 2010

1. The Proof of the Resurrection

2. The Power of the Spirit

3. The Profession of Faith

Portions of the Poem "Seven Stanzas at Easter" by John Updike

Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as His body;
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse,
 the molecules reknit, the amino
 acids rekindle,
the church will fall

Let us not mock God with a metaphor,
Analogy, sidestepping transcendence;
Making of the event a parable, a sign
 painted in the faded credulity of
 earlier ages:
Let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché,
Not a stone in a story,
But the vast rock of materiality that in the slow
 grinding of time will eclipse for each of us
The wide light of day