

Why do you look for the living among the dead?

He is not here, but has risen.

—Luke 24.5

Risen

For Easter Day

If you are looking
for a blessing,
do not linger
here.

Here
is only
emptiness,
a hollow,
a husk
where a blessing
used to be.

This blessing
was not content
in its confinement.

It could not abide
its isolation,
the unrelenting silence,
the pressing stench
of death.

So if it is
a blessing
you seek,
open your own
mouth.



Image: *Risen* © Jan Richardson

Fill your lungs
with the air
this new
morning brings
and then
release it
with a cry.

Hear how the blessing
breaks forth
in your own voice,
how your own lips
form every word
you never dreamed
to say.

See how the blessing
circles back again,
wanting you to
repeat it,
but louder,
how it draws you,
pulls you,
sends you
to proclaim
its only word:

Risen.

Risen.

Risen.

—Jan Richardson from [Circle of Grace](#)