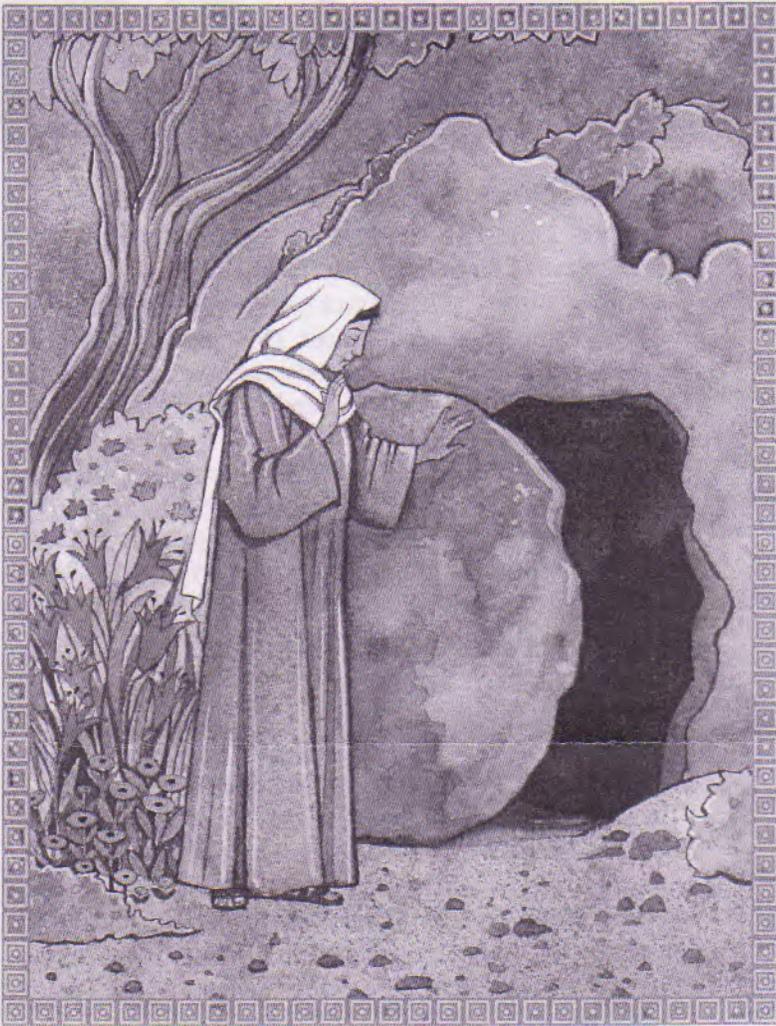


Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



Prayer for Fresh Enthusiasm

God of Resurrection and new life,
you whose dear Son, Jesus
broke open the tomb
and the clutches of death,
help us to hear
today's Good News
with the enthusiasm of Mary
Magdalene,
Peter, and the Beloved Disciple.
May we too run with energy,
pause with prayerful reflection,
and then believe as they did.
Help us hear "rumors of Resurrection"
everywhere we go—and spread them.
We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns
with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, March 31, 2013
Small, Ordinary Details

Today's Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37–43; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24 (1); Colossians 3:1–4; John 20:1–9. We rarely think about the inspiring Easter story beginning in darkness and confusion. Though Mary Magdalene is drawn to the garden of Jesus's tomb before dawn, her first report to the other disciples is of a stolen body: "we don't know where they have put him!" "They" is vague, but probably about the best she can muster in her grieving, bewildered state. The truth comes gradually, probably important for us to remember when we want instant enlightenment on less important subjects.

The vivid realization of Resurrection seems to dawn only through small details, such as the simple, orderly placement of the linen cloths. Often, we seem to spend our lives on equally small actions: household tasks, work responsi-

bilities, errands, daily chores, accounting, child or elder care. Yet Jesus's taking the first moments of his resurrected life for a minor gesture redeems these, giving profound meaning to what seems insignificant. We must never scorn the ordinary when he uplifted it so utterly.

We can also learn from Peter's run to the tomb, even if he doesn't get there first. He has apparently moved beyond his abysmal betrayal during Jesus's Passion. He signals to us that dwelling on past failures is a waste of time that drains energy. Wallowing in previous mistakes or hurtful memories is *not* the way to Resurrection. So even if we don't run quickly, we'd do well to follow Peter's path. It brought him from the darkest depths to the most exultant heights—and can do so for us as well.



This Week at Home

Monday, April 1

An Utterly Different Life

What is the meaning of the empty tomb? Benedictine monk David Steindl-Rast points out that the angel's message (in verse 7, immediately before today's reading) doesn't say that Jesus has come back to life. Our concept of life edges inevitably towards death. But Jesus has already passed through Death. "He is not here" means that Jesus has gone far beyond our limited understanding. All we know is that "the tomb is open and empty, a fitting image for wide open hope." Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 (1); Matthew 28:8-15.

Tuesday, April 2

Sadness in the Midst of Joy

It's curious that Jesus repeats the same question the angels ask Mary: "Woman, why are you weeping?" Perhaps he is acknowledging that even in the midst of Easter jubilation, grieving is understandable. If you know someone who is mourning the loss of a loved one, or who is mentally or physically ill, contact him or her today and offer your presence. Today's Readings: Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 (5b); John 20:11-18.

Wednesday, April 3

Gifts Differing

In some ways, we could all echo Peter in today's reading from Acts: "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you . . ." What is your unique gift? You may not be able to heal as Peter does, but are you an expert baker? gardener? cheerleader? teacher? weaver? organizer? accountant? smiler? interior decorator? a mender or repairer? a compassionate friend? How do you help build God's reign on earth? Or, what prevents your developing and contributing your talents? What do you need to make that happen more often? Talk with a friend or relative about this during Easter week. Today's Readings: Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 (3b); Luke 24:13-35.

Thursday, April 4

Where Is the Astonishment?

In the course of an ordinary day, when are you, as in Acts, "utterly astonished"? (3:11) Track (perhaps in a journal) your feelings of wonder and amazement. This spirit characterized the early Christian community, and must have made them an exciting group to be around. Surely the green buds and shoots of spring, emerging from dark earth and seemingly dead branches, are a place to begin. If you feel cynical or exhausted, incapable of wonder, do you need a vacation? a nap? a new way of seeing? Today's Readings: Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 (2ab); Luke 24:35-48.

Friday, April 5

Which Camp for You?

Today's reading from Acts records two distinct reactions to Peter and John's teaching about Jesus's Resurrection. The Sadducees are "much annoyed," but five thousand people believe. If you had been there that day, which group do you think you'd join? Why? Some people move more slowly than others, wanting reassurances. Others leap quickly, with sure instincts. It's all a matter of personality type. What counts is eventually reaching the same goal: becoming "companions of Jesus" (4:13). Today's Readings: Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 118:1-2, and 4, 22-24, 25-27a (22); John 21:1-14.

Saturday, April 6

Signs of Resurrection

As the religious authorities in Acts listen to John and Peter, these "uneducated and ordinary men," they grow amazed. They warn the Apostles not to teach about Jesus again, but then the Apostles "cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard" (4:20). If a stranger were to enter your home today, what signs of Resurrection would be found there? Do you speak in subtle ways, through the art you've displayed, the joy in your eyes, the warm welcome, the absence of anxiety, the spring flowers in the prayer corner? Would hope emerge from your conversation? What are your signs of Resurrection? Today's Readings: Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 (21a); Mark 16:9-15.



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 Keeping the Seasons

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