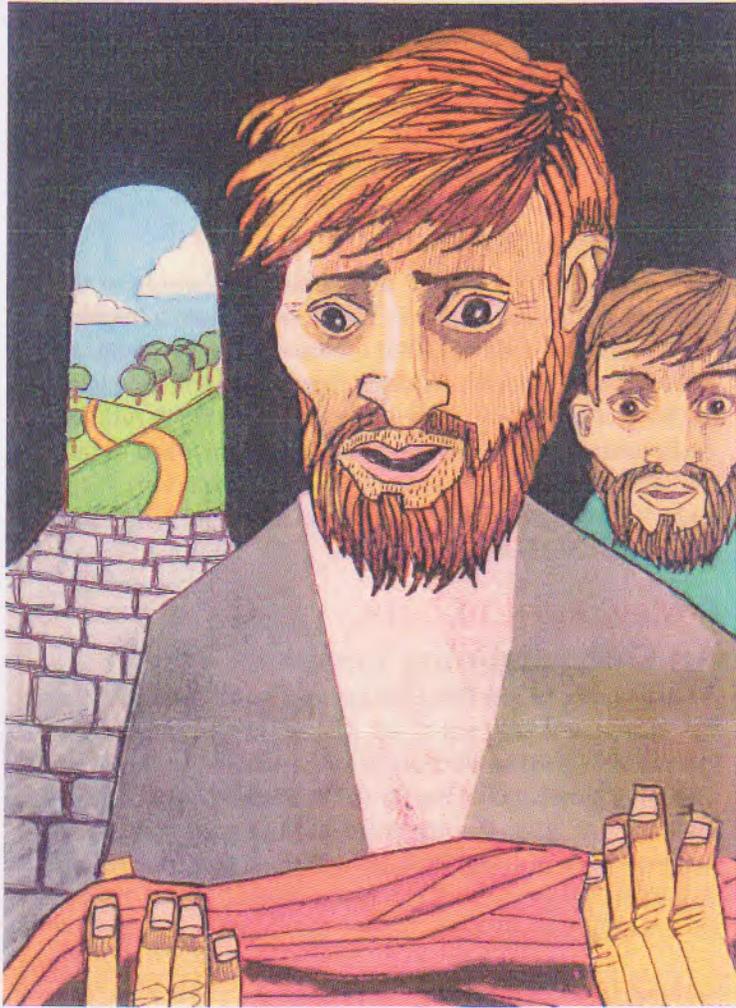


EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Let Us Keep the Festival

Christ the Lord,
you fill us with joy.
Be with us now as we sing, "alleluia!"

Today we are struck with awe
as we join Peter and the other disciple
in finding the burial cloths.
We know that you have risen,
and have ensured us that we will walk
in the light, never fearing darkness.
Sustain us in our rejoicing
as we glory in the Resurrection.
You live and reign with the Father in the
unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

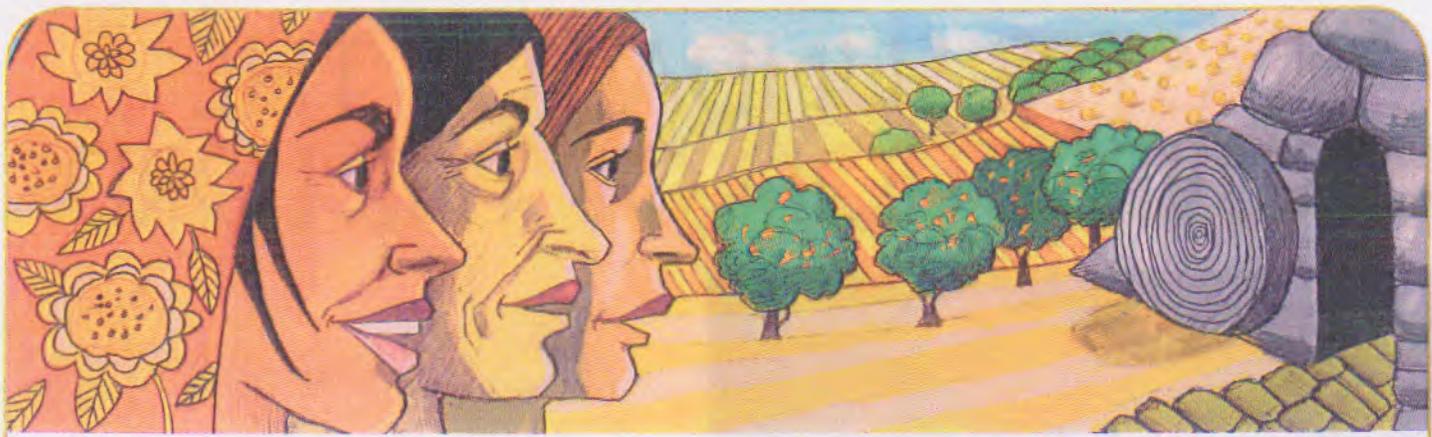
Sunday, April 5, 2015
Rejoice and Be Glad

Today's Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24); Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9, or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35. As we sing alleluias once again, as we hear of Christ's rising from the dead, it seems that our lives have pointed to this day. Indeed, our lives are focused on the Resurrection. This is the major feast day of the Church, for Christ came to die and rise from the dead for us. From that dying and rising, we have new life in Christ; we are united with God.

Our churches, then, are decorated in gold and white, colors of new life and rejoicing. In the Responsorial Psalm, we sing, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice

and be glad," for our lives are centered on this day. It is the day that provides hope for us. We are not dead because of our sin but forgiven because of God's mercy.

In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Peter summarizes what he has witnessed. Jesus was anointed, hanged, raised from the dead, and made visible to his followers. These followers preach, continuing to tell the story of the one who forgives sins. It is clear from this reading that Peter's life has been changed. He now traces events and sees their culmination in the Resurrection. What meaning does the Resurrection have in your life? Are you open to its giving you a new perspective? Do you revolve your life around Easter?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 6, 2015

No Need to Fear

"Do not be afraid!" Jesus greets the women with these words in today's Gospel. The same words were said to Mary at the Annunciation and to the shepherds as the angels heralded the birth of the Lord. Today we know that the Lord is risen and with us. Still, we often are afraid of what is ahead of us. During this season, we may want to try to practice trusting in the Lord as we rejoice that he has risen and is always present in our lives. 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 7, 2015

Called by God

How easy it is to miss the Lord when our focus is on ourselves. At first Mary did not recognize the Lord because she was concentrating on the empty tomb and her grief. Yet it took only being called by name for her to see the Lord. The Lord calls each of us to him. Do we recognize the Lord's call in Word, in sacrament, and in members of the Body of Christ? Today's Readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20 and 22 (5b); John 20:11–18.

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Telling the Good News

In today's Gospel, we hear that two disciples walked many miles with Jesus and then finally recognized him in the breaking of the bread. The early Christians used the term "breaking of the bread" for Eucharist. Having recognized Jesus, these disciples ran to spread the message. Does the Eucharist nourish you to tell others of the life that you live in Christ? Or are you afraid to proclaim Christ to others? Today's Readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9 (3b); Luke 24:13–35.

Thursday, April 9, 2015

Peace Be with You

We hear in today's Gospel that Jesus' first words to the Apostles were those of peace. The Apostles were a troubled group. They had followed Jesus for three years, but could not make sense of his death. Wishing them peace, Jesus explains the Scriptures to them, showing them that his death fulfilled the prophecies. We should seek to rest in Jesus when we are troubled. Does it help to know that he wishes us peace? Today's Readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6–7, 8–9 (2ab); Luke 24:35–48.

Friday, April 10, 2015

An Overwhelming Love

An abundance of fish filled the net as soon as Jesus told the Apostles to cast their net to the side of the boat. Could the fish in today's narrative from John be likened to the overwhelming love that God has for us? In today's Gospel, Christ feeds the Apostles, sharing bread and fish with them. God continues to nourish and share himself through the Eucharist. Today's Readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2 and 4, 22–24, 25–27a (22); John 21:1–14.

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

We hear in today's Gospel of the reluctance of the Apostles to believe that Jesus had risen. First, they disregarded the Good News from Mary Magdalene and from the disciples who met Jesus along the road. Appearing before the disciples, Jesus commands them to spread the Gospel. Have you taken that message to heart? 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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