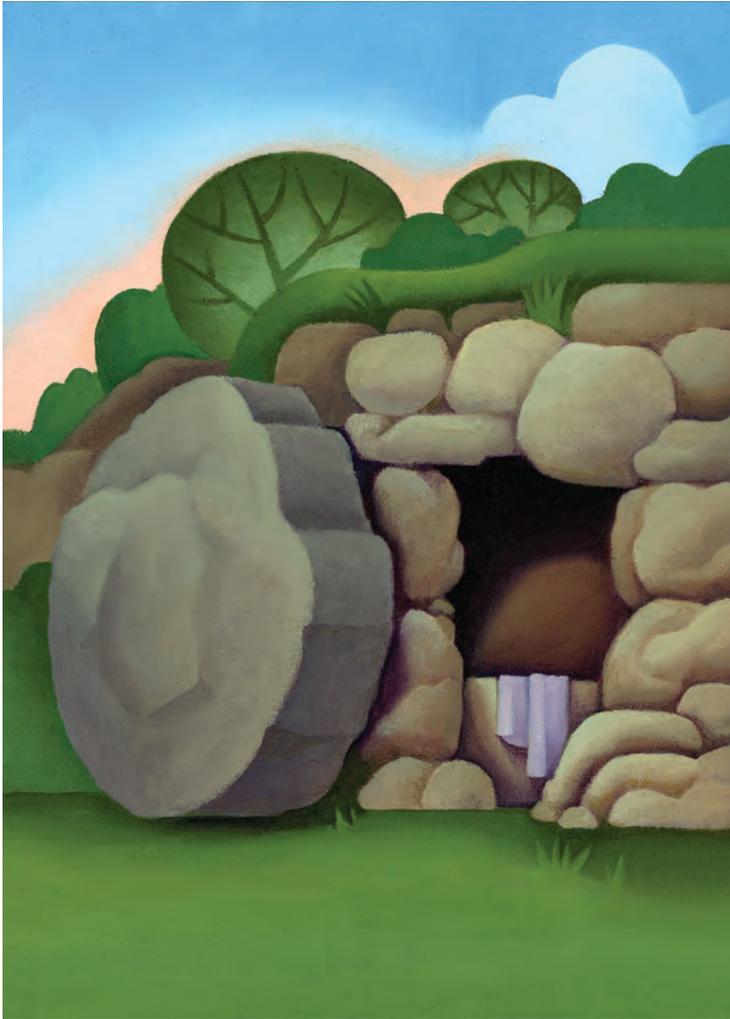


EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Belief

O God who works wonders,
we marvel in the Resurrection of Jesus,
your Son.
In Christ, you have redeemed us and
brought us to life.
May our “alleluia” proclaim
the Resurrection
and profess our willingness to join
ourselves to the Paschal Mystery.
Grant us, we pray, O Lord,
eyes to see you and ears to hear your voice
so that we might grow stronger in faith
like the disciples on that first Easter.
Help us to bear witness to your
Son’s Resurrection
and give us a desire to seek and serve
you among the living.
May your Holy Spirit fill us with joy,
rousing our hearts to proclaim Christ,
the victor King.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 27, 2016
Let Us Rejoice and Be Glad



Today’s Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Colossians 3:1–4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8; John 20:1–9. The refrain of today’s psalm captures the sentiment of the Church this day. With hearts full of joy, we rejoice and give thanks to God for redeeming us in Christ. Christ, who suffered and died, has trampled death and bestowed life on those in the grave. We were once dead, but now, through the power of the Cross, we have life. For me, it’s always difficult to articulate what I feel on this day. After forty long days of prayer and purification, it’s an awesome wonder to relish in the gift of new life. Examining the areas of my life that have risen with Christ and been renewed invigorates me to share the Good News. Several years ago,

when the “alleluia” erupted during the Easter Vigil, I was brought to tears because it announced with great vigor Christ’s victory, and I knew how much I was loved. How have you or do you experience the Resurrection? The Gospel describes the story of Mary Magdalene arriving at the tomb while it was still dark. Do we need to see the Christ to believe in the Resurrection? Instead of joy, the Gospel paints a picture of distress and confusion. Where has the body of the Lord gone? The clue we get is that the burial cloths are still there—Jesus must have risen. When and where have you encountered the Risen Christ? In renewing our baptismal promises, we have been invited to show forth the Risen Christ to all we encounter. Go forth rejoicing.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 28, 2016

Witness

The speech Peter gives in the First Reading reminds us that each of us is a witness to the Resurrection. In Baptism, we have been raised to new life in the Spirit. Our commission, like the women in the Gospel, is to go and announce the Good News to our brothers and sisters. Rejoice, for our Lord is risen from the dead! Make time to attend Mass each day of the Octave of Easter. *Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; Matthew 28:8–15.*

Tuesday, March 29, 2016

Herald

In today's Gospel, Mary Magdalene is found weeping at the tomb. When she encounters Jesus, she thinks he is the gardener. When he calls out her name, she recognizes him and becomes a herald of the Good News. Think of an instance when it took a while to notice Jesus' presence and then how you proclaim the Good News. Today, spend a few moments meditating with an image of the Resurrection. *Today's Readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20 and 22; John 20:11–18.*

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Good News

Jesus has bestowed upon his people many great gifts. In the First Reading, Peter and John proclaim Jesus as Savior in the healing of the crippled man. In turn, the man went about praising God. The Gospel tells the story of Emmaus and how the two disciples recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread. They quickly go to share this Good News. With whom could you share the Good News of Jesus Christ? You do not need to do this with words. Your deeds could share the work of Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–25.*

Thursday, March 31, 2016

Raised Up

The First Reading continues from where the reading left off yesterday. The healing stories presented in chapter 3 help prove that God has raised Jesus from the dead. Peter calls those who deny that Jesus is the Messiah to repent or be cut off from God. Ignorance is not an excuse because the prophets foretold these days. God is merciful to those who seek his holy name. *Today's Readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

Friday, April 1, 2016

Eating

Every time I hear the account in today's Gospel, I am struck by the passion Peter has to greet our Lord. He cannot wait, and I presume he was filled with joy at the sight of Christ, because he jumps out of the boat. We need to be seized by the joy of Christ. How do we run to greet the Lord? Finally, can we be as bold as Peter and John in witnessing to the Resurrection? Prepare a festive meal in the coming week and share it with friends and family. *Today's Readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2 and 4, 22–24, 25–27a; John 21:1–14.*

Saturday, April 2, 2016

Go Out

Reading Acts is like reading a great novel. Today, Peter and John are forbidden to speak to anyone about Jesus, but they reply that it would be impossible not to do so. Has your heart been roused this Easter season to speak of the wonders Christ has done for us? Have there been times you've been silenced when talking about your faith in Christ? At the end of today's Gospel, Jesus tells us to go into the world and proclaim the Gospel. If you have not done so, download Pope Francis' *The Joy of the Gospel* from the Internet. Plan to read parts of it during each week of Easter Time. *Today's Readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:1 and 14–15ab, 16–18, 19–21; Mark 16:9–15.*

