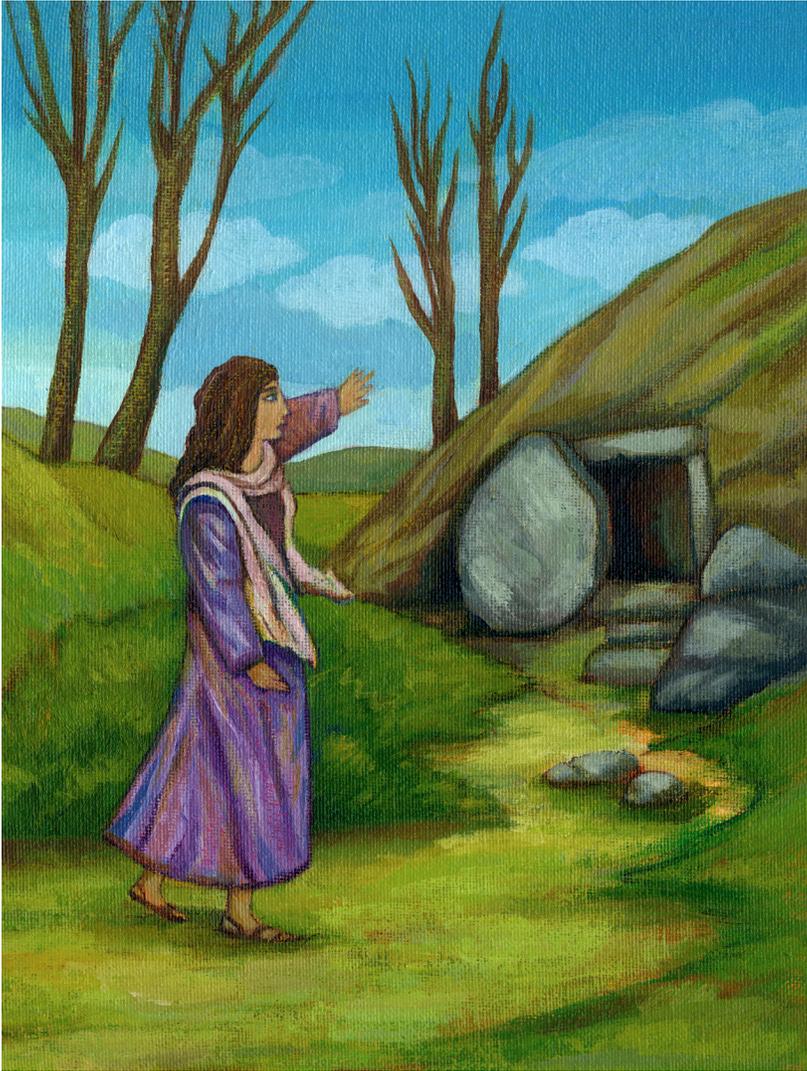


EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Go Forth

O God, source of all joy,
your majesty has been proclaimed
throughout all of creation
in the dying and rising of your Son, Jesus.
Today, we celebrate his victory,
his triumph over darkness and death;
and rejoice in the gift of new life.
Like Mary of Magdala,
grant us joyful hearts that go forth
announcing salvation.
Instill within us a deep faith and an
intense love.
On this Easter day, filled with wonder,
help us to know your Son more intimately
so that, filled with the Holy Spirit,
we may forever proclaim the enduring
love poured out on all.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 1, 2018

Good News



Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 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. As the trumpets sounded the introduction to the Alleluia at the Easter Vigil one year, Christ's triumph over death and sin was truly present to me; the reality that God's love saves me set in and tears of joy filled my eyes. How could I be loved so much? As the congregation's Alleluia broke the silence of the Triduum, I asked, "How can we not rejoice and sing with all creation at God's marvelous gift?" Think of a time when your Easter joy flooded you. What did you come to know about Christ, about the Resurrection and your life?

The mystery of the Resurrection is hard to comprehend, but this is truly the day that the Lord has made. All

creation shouts with a profound joy in exultation to our loving God, who, in his kindness, gave his Son that we might live. This is the fulfillment of the covenant promised to Noah and Abraham and all our ancestors. Many of us will gather around a table to share a meal with family and friends. Like the Eucharist, keep in mind that this is the feast of joy; a feast where the Church not only gives thanks and praise, but also learns what it means to live in the light. The suffering and challenges of Lent make way to a new life, in which we are called to serve the poor and marginalized and to proclaim the Good News. During the Octave of Easter, strive to eat a festive meal as a family each evening.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 2 Good News

Today's Gospel picks up right after the two Marys encounter the angels at the empty tomb. These faithful women hurried to share the news with the others. If we have truly seen and heard the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection, then why wouldn't we also go forth to tell of God's salvation? Imagine yourself meeting these two on their way to share the news. What would they say to you? How would you respond? Write a note of Good News to a friend. *Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Matthew 28:8-15.*

Tuesday, April 3 Mary at the Tomb

John's Gospel presents another telling of Mary Magdalene at the tomb. It's a bit more somber than yesterday and you can hear the sorrow that fills Mary's heart. When she finally recognizes Jesus, she goes to tell the others that she has seen him. Like Mary, we must witness to others. Like Peter in Acts, we invite others to hear the story and come to know Jesus more intimately. For your prayer before meals, sing your favorite "Alleluia" in praise to God. *Today's Readings: Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22; John 20:11-18.*

Wednesday, April 4 Hearts Burning

The story of the road to Emmaus captures a scene soon after the Resurrection account. Think about who introduced you to Jesus. When Christ is present in our lives, our hearts should burn with joy. This joy overflows and propels us to share the Good News to the ends of the earth. Break bread at dinner tonight and talk about the joy of the Lord in your life. *Today's Readings: Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 24:13-25.*

Thursday, April 5 Peace Be with You

It's easy to imagine the fear the disciples had immediately after the death of Christ. They believed he was the Savior and yet, he had been killed. The encounters with Christ after the Resurrection help his followers understand more fully God's plan. The Messiah came as a servant who gave himself so that others might have life. In the Gospel, Jesus offers the disciples peace and attempts to calm them. Think about ways you can bear the light of peace in your family and community. *Today's Readings: Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 24:35-48.*

Friday, April 6 Eucharist

In this third encounter with Jesus, the disciples share a meal with him after a night of fishing. As with the Emmaus reading, Jesus is revealed in the breaking of the bread. At every Mass, the Risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking and sharing of bread. The Eucharist provides the nourishment we need to go forth, "fish" for people, and share the news of salvation. Where else do you see Christ present? Invite a friend to lunch today. *Today's Readings: Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a; John 21:1-14.*

Saturday, April 7 Proclamation

In the First Reading, we hear that, despite the elders' warning, Peter and John continue to speak of Jesus. The truth they experienced in the person of Christ is undeniable and filled with love. To continue Christ's work and build up the Kingdom, they are committed to sharing the Good News with any person they encounter. As an Easter people, we must fervently share the Gospel. Make it a point to get to know one of the neophytes in the parish and hear their story of encountering Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21; Mark 16:9-15.*

