

EASTER SUNDAY A

THE GOSPEL (Easter Vigil) John 20:1-9

They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first.



An angel.
Dazzling light.
Boulders moved.
Burial head cloth rolled up.
Women running to tell disciples.
Disciples running to see for themselves.
The empty tomb proclaiming

Good News.

He was not
there.

“Where is he?”

“Mary!”

The one who has loved us
into wholeness
is alive.
and
with us now.

We say with her,

“Rabbouni”!

 He is
RISEN

THE FIRST READING (Easter Sunday)

Acts 10:34, 37-43

“You know what has happened.”

Night surrendered to day, dark to light,
fear to courage,
death
to resurrection.

Peter,

whose fear could not admit he knew the Lord
but now fearless, proclaims him boldly,
across the barren hills,
each place he goes
in every action
he takes.

Lord, give
us, too,
your Spirit:
give us your life as you gave it to Peter.

Let us show your story in our lives.



42 He commissioned us to preach
to the people and testify that He
is the one appointed by God as
judge of the living and the dead.
43 To Him all the prophets bear
witness, that everyone who
believes in Him will receive
forgiveness of sins through His
name.”

THE 2nd READING (Easter Sunday) Col 3:1-4

...Seek the things which are above,
where Christ is, sitting at the right
hand of God. Set your mind on the
things which are above...

Col. 3:1-2

Lord,
O help us to
find what is above:
compassion, gentleness,
kindness, humility, patience,

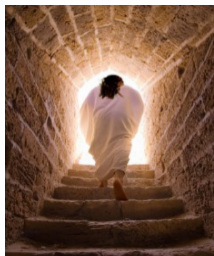
forgiving one another,
bearing with one another.

Let your peace dwell in our
hearts!

Let us put on
Love

and find ways to fix the wrongs we see in our world:
war, social injustice, climate crisis,
children starving,
human trafficking.

Help us fix it all. *(Annie Osdieck)*



REFLECTION: Easter is a time to ask ourselves: how do we respond to the empty tomb? Mary thinks that someone stole the body; Peter enters the empty tomb but says nothing, as if he is still struggling with his faith. Only John, the beloved disciple, “sees and believes.” The gospel portrays John as the disciple who believes in the resurrection of the Lord. Yet, he did not see Jesus rise from the dead. He only saw that the tomb was empty, but that was enough for him. His faith made a quantum leap from empty tomb to

resurrection.

The empty tomb is the source of our faith in the resurrection of Christ, and an invitation to those who already believe in Jesus to deepen their faith that death has not separated believers from Jesus Christ. We believe that death is not the end of our relationship with God, only the beginning of a new way of relating to God; one that breaks all barriers, even the barrier of death itself.

John is depicted as the model of what a disciple should be. Only in John’s gospel is he at the foot of the cross next to the mother of Jesus. He goes beyond his fear and stands by Jesus and his mother until the end. Our faith in the resurrection is not based on what science can prove to be true; rather it is based on Christ’s resurrection and our belief that the Spirit of God lives on in Jesus Christ. It lives on in his disciples who like John have the courage to do good for others and to work for healing of those in pain. Today, it lives on in the life of every believer who acclaims “Alleluia, Christ is risen.” This act of faith becomes credible to others when we are visible witnesses in the good works we do and the forgiveness we give to one another. Indeed, death does not separate us from Jesus Christ. Our preaching cannot be just with words; it is primarily by putting our faith into action; then Jesus rises in us and becomes known in our broken world.

Jesus and Mary Magdalen

Alexander Ivanov (1806-1858)



