

APRIL 1, 2018



EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



ACTS 10:34A, 37-43

PSALM 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4 OR 1 CORINTHIANS 5:6B-8

VICTIMAE PASCHALI LAUDES

JOHN 20:1-9 OR LUKE 24:13-35

REFLECTION

We read the Gospel stories already knowing the ending. We listen to the Passion narrative during Mass on Palm Sunday and during the liturgy on Good Friday and barely bat an eye as Jesus endures unimaginable betrayal, torture, and death . . . and then we stop reading just as he is placed in the tomb. We catch the disciples in their lowest, most desperate moment—the moment they have come face-to-face with the reality that the one in whom they have placed their trust for the last three years has been killed. The finality of it all has begun to set in. Their hope is gone. They are scared of what comes next. But for us as readers, somehow this drama isn't so . . . well, *dramatic*. Why? Because we know how the story ends. Jesus rises from the dead! Life triumphs over death! Love wins! But is it really the end of the story?

ACTION

As Catholics, we believe that the Paschal Mystery—the life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ—is still at work in our lives today. Not just the Resurrection part, but the life (process) and the death (pain). We look around and see many places in our world that yearn for resurrection. We see astronomical poverty rates, people displaced by the effects of climate change, families separated by divorce and unjust immigration laws, friends who have turned to self-harm in the midst of their helpless despair. So even after we have entered the empty tomb with Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the beloved disciple in today's Gospel reading, it can be hard for us to believe. "They did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead" (John 20:9). In many ways, we don't understand either. But it's true—Christ *had* to rise from the dead . . . and so do we! We are charged with sharing the Good News with a broken world. We become agents of change—heralds of the Resurrection. We continue writing the Gospel story in our day, and in our time. Alleluia!

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- When have you experienced the Paschal Mystery? How has God turned death into resurrection for you?
- How might God be inviting you to write the Gospel story in your life or the lives of others this week?