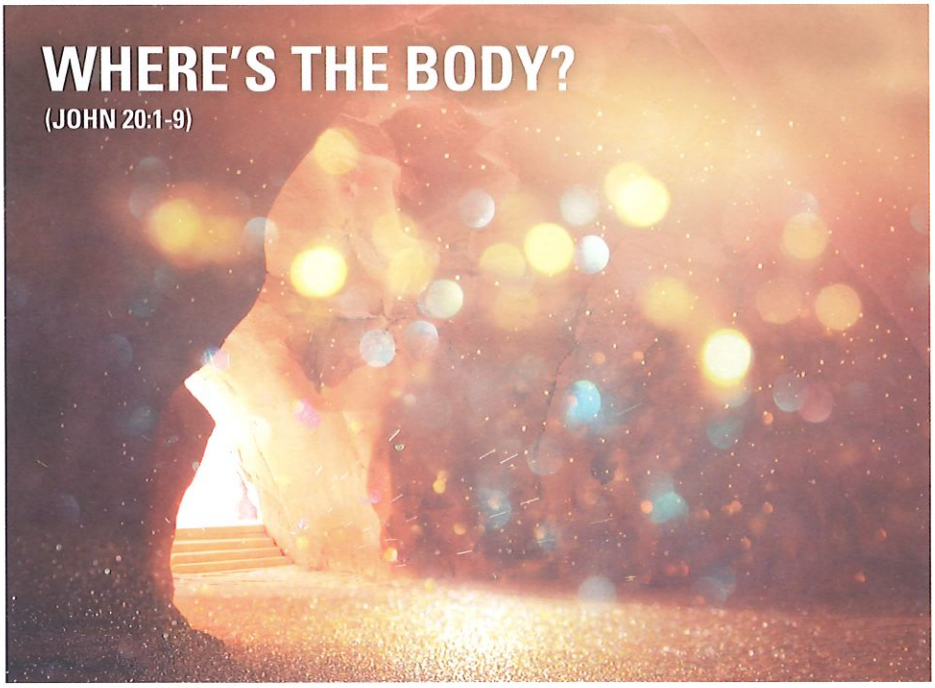
17 APRIL 2022

Sunday Message

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

THE WORD

Year C • Psalter Week 1



The narrative Gospel tradition presents Mary Magdalene as the first witness to the resurrection.

We might note that the Gospel accounts do not say that anyone actually saw Jesus emerge from the tomb. The women are the constant factor in the story of Jesus' journey of suffering. They witness the crucifixion and the burial; Mary Magdalene and others are mentioned in the various narratives of the discovery of the empty tomb.

The episode today recalls John's telling of Jesus' raising Lazarus to life, but there are important and significant differences in the two scenes. First of all, Lazarus' tomb is still sealed, but that of Jesus is open (leading to questions as to why: Mary does not conclude from the absence of the body that Jesus is risen). In the case of Jesus, his burial cloths are found on the ground and his facecloth rolled up in a separate place: Lazarus appears with his funeral sheets around him.

We might notice that the simple fact of the missing body does not inspire Simon Peter to faith. Peter may well be the leader of the disciples, but it is the one who is closest to Jesus in a relationship of love who understands what has actually happened. ■

SAY

This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad!
(Psalm 117:24)

DO

Make the sign of the cross privately with water; renew quietly your commitment to the person of Jesus.

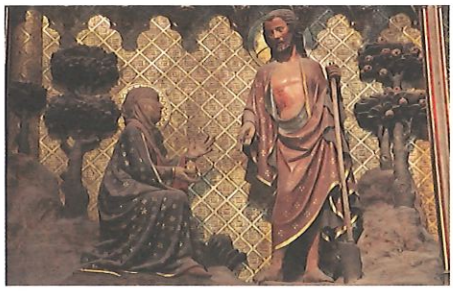
LEARN

No one witnessed Jesus rising from the tomb.

The original witnesses come to believe through a personal encounter with the risen Jesus.

Mary Magdalene is the constant presence in the resurrection narratives.

Easter is our opportunity to renew our faith and our commitment to Jesus and the teachings of the Gospel.



Christ and Mary Magdalene – relief from Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris

REFLECT

Sacred art can be very helpful in thinking about the mysteries of our faith. But sometimes it can offer too simplistic an understanding, especially of the resurrection of Jesus. Apart from the beloved disciple, who stands at the origin of the tradition going back to John, no one comes to believe in the resurrection simply through the fact that Jesus' tomb is found empty. Mary Magdalene tells Simon Peter and the others that someone has removed the body and she and her companions have no idea what has happened to it.

It is only through a personal encounter with the risen Jesus that people come to believe in the resurrection. They have an experience which convinces them that Calvary and the cross were not the end of the story. Thus, they are witnesses to the resurrection, rather than witnesses of the resurrection. It is on their testimony that the preaching of the Gospel is based: the empty tomb is never advanced as evidence, because it is rather a consequence of what is being proclaimed.

Each Easter, we are invited to renew our faith in the risen Jesus and to affirm his place in our lives. When we are asked, "Do you believe in Jesus Christ... who... suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead... ?" we should not see our answer as simply a statement of fact, but rather as our annual commitment to our Christian faith and to the person of Jesus.

We are declaring that we are Jesus' disciples; that he is present to us in our daily life, that we are doing our best to live by his teachings and values, and that this is most present when we celebrate the Eucharist together. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge,
alleluia, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who on this day,
through your Only Begotten Son,
have conquered death
and unlocked for us the path to eternity,
grant, we pray, that we who keep
the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection
may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit,
rise up in the light of life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING — Acts 10:34, 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: "You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea: about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM — Psalm 117

Response:
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.
or
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
"His love has no end." **(R.)**

2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. **(R.)**

3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

SECOND READING — Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Or 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer
sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended; combat strangely
ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon
the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before
you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we
know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed;
let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL — John 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb" she said "and we don't know where they have put him."

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

Do you renounce Satan?
I do.
And all his works?
I do.
And all his empty show?
I do.
Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?
I do.
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?
I do.
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting?
I do.

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,
keep us by his grace,
in Christ Jesus our Lord,
for eternal life.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed,
alleluia;
therefore let us keep the feast with the
unleavened bread
of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your Church, O God,
with unfailing love and favour,
so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries,
she may come to the glory of the
resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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Concordat cum originali: + Eamon Martin Archbishop of Armagh. Commentary by Fr Anthony Cassidy C.Ss.R. The English translation of the entrance and communion antiphons, the opening prayers, prayers over the gifts, gloria, creed, and prayers after communion from The Roman Missal, © 2010 International Commission of English in the Liturgy Corporation. Jerusalem Bible version of the scriptures copyright: Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd., and Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial psalms are copyright The Grail and/or Geoffrey Chapman Ltd. Published in Ireland by Redemptorist Communications (www.redcoms.org); Published in the UK by Redemptorist Publications (www.rpbooks.co.uk)

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