



The Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Ps 118:1-2,16-17,22-23
Colossians 3:1-4
or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
John 20:1-9
or Mark 16:1-7
or Luke 24:13-35

Monday April 5

Acts 2:14,22-32
Ps 16:1-2,5,7-10,11
Matt 28:8-15

Tuesday April 6

Acts 2:36-41
Ps 33:4-5,18-20,22
John 20:11-18

Wednesday April 7

Acts 3:1-10
Ps 105:1-4,6-9
Luke 24:13-35

Thursday April 8

Acts 3:11-26
Ps 8:2,5-9
Luke 24:35-48

Friday April 9

Acts 4:1-12
Ps 118:1-2,4,22-27
John 21:1-14

Saturday April 10

Acts 4:13-21
Ps 118:1,14-21
Mark 16:9-15

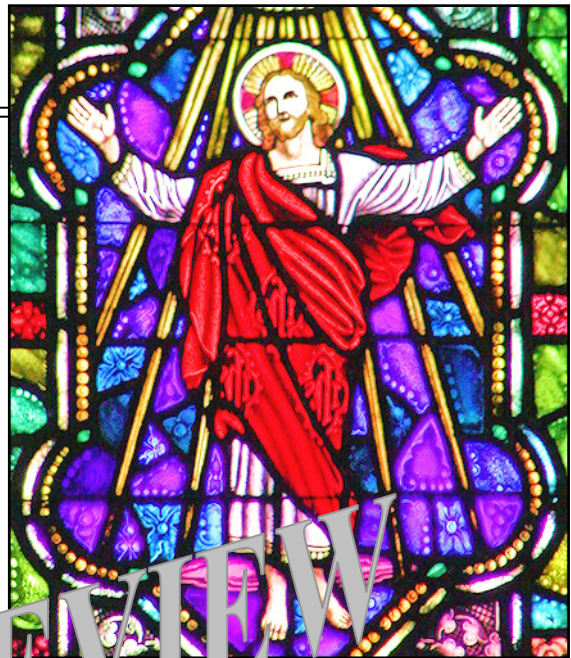
The glorious day of the celebration of Easter could not exist without first walking with Jesus on the solemn journey of Holy Week. The doorway into heaven is the cross. No one can experience new joys without first accepting the sorrows and sacrifices of life as our personal connection to Jesus.

Easter joy comes not only from accepting what Jesus did for us on the cross but also from continuing the journey, side by side, step by step with Jesus. If we're sincere about following Christ, we do whatever he does, united to his ministry of helping others grow in their eternal relationship with God. In this, we face the cross again and again. There is no gain in salvation without the pain of sacrificial love.

Our cross is a soft word that we speak when someone else is angry and we feel like shouting. Our cross is a hand outstretched to comfort

the afflicted when it's inconvenient and we feel like withdrawing. Our cross is a good deed that we do to those who treat us unjustly and we feel like retaliating. And our resurrection is the joy that comes from knowing that we have made a difference in the lives of others for the sake of God's kingdom.

Love that's given when it's difficult is a suffering love, a passionate love, a salvific love, i.e., it benefits the eternal lives of others. Then, our sacrifices have a value of



endless worth. This is so much better than a self-serving, easy life! It's eternally better! Easter Sunday Mass is your celebration of rising with Jesus into glorious victory over evil.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What sacrifices are you suffering from right now? Write Jesus a love letter that connects your pain to his pain on the cross, then rest quietly with him as if you were sharing his tomb with him. When you're ready to rise from your chair, celebrate that God appreciates all you have done for his kingdom; this is your resurrection!
2. Describe how it feels when a hard journey finally comes to an end. What part of that ending feels like being in the tomb with Jesus?
3. How do you know that you're an Easter Christian?