

**SHARING THE FAITH: WEEKLY EMAIL DEVOTION
FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 2010**

Readings for April 4, Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day:

JOHN 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Faith Questions:

1. What are some of your family's Easter traditions?
2. Why do you think Mary didn't recognize the risen Jesus at first? Where might you see Jesus and not recognize him?
3. Easter Sunday worship begins with a shout of "Alleluia!" Is it easy for you to shout alleluia this year? Why or why not? "Alleluia" does not mean that life is suddenly all better again. Good Friday still happened. Is it easy or hard for you to believe in the promise of life that Jesus' resurrection brings? Have that conversation with God this week.

4. How does the resurrection change your life—not your after-life, but this life, the one you are living today? In other words, other than salvation, how does the resurrection change you? What are the results of that change?
5. How do you think Jesus' resurrection transformed his community of disciples? How does Jesus' resurrection transform his community of disciples today?

Let us pray:

Thank you God, that Jesus is no longer dead, but is alive! Remind me every day of the resurrection life that I share with Christ, even when I don't believe it. Help me to live my life in ways that reflect the life-giving power of resurrection, rather than death.

For whom else, and for what else, shall we pray? (Insert your own prayer here)
Amen.

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