

April 20, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 | Col 3:1-4 | Jn 20:1-9

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

After years (and, for many of us, decades) of celebrating Easter, we may not be sensitive to the sheer peculiarity of the Resurrection accounts. But a close reading of today's Gospel prompts us to ask: If most of us were dreaming up the greatest event in history, wouldn't we have made it more exciting? A little fanfare would have gotten the message out to the world and nipped future skepticism in the bud. Yet this is not what God did. The account of Jesus' resurrection has no fanfare; in fact, it is not an account of a resurrection at all. It is a story of an empty tomb discovered by a woman from whom Jesus had cast out seven demons (cf. Lk 8:2), and two fishermen. Awestruck by the simplicity of these circumstances, we are inspired to adore the profound humility of God who invites – but never forces – us to respond to him in faith.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Although we cannot know exactly why God chose to arrange the events this way, today's second reading offers a hint: "For you have died," writes St. Paul, "and your life is hidden with Christ in God." This world which we consider home, and everything that comes to mind when we say "my life" – these are only shadows of the life that is found in Christ alone. Like the disciples in the Gospel, we are meant to gaze past the outward appearances of our mundane and sometimes pain-filled lives and, with the eyes of faith, place our hope in the true *life* that comes from God. But how often we forget! How often we live as if this world were all there was, without hope for eternal life! We are not alone in forgetting God's promises; Mary Magdalene and the disciples do not seem to expect Jesus' resurrection – even though he had repeatedly predicted it. At the tomb, they sought a dead body; but Jesus wished to offer them *his life*. We, likewise, must desire and seek his life by laying aside everything that does not lead us to him.

REJOICE

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Although we don't place our hope in this life, marking the Church's feasts in our homes and families can inspire us to seek "what is above" by giving us a foretaste of the joys of heaven. Today through next Sunday, as we celebrate the "Easter Octave," every day is Easter Day! Use simple reminders – decorations, an extra treat, an additional time of prayer – to rejoice each day of the Octave.