

*Christ Is Risen  
From The Dead!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Easter Sunday*

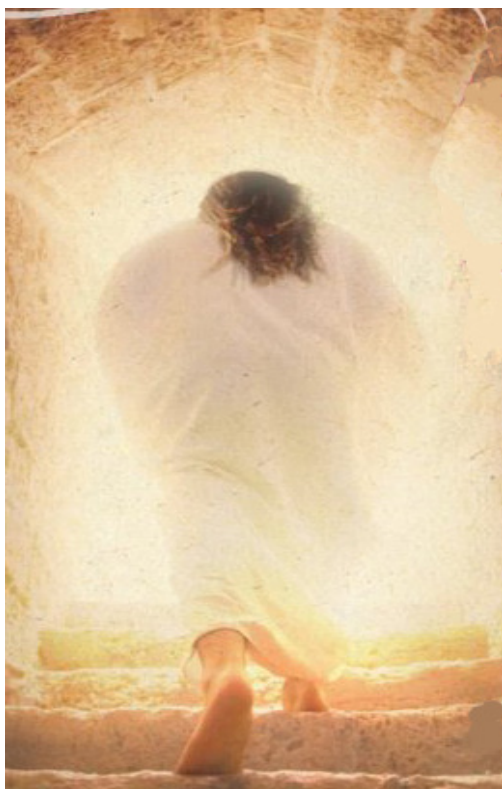


*San Ignacio de Loyola Parish*

*April 5, 2015*

## Reflection on the Word

**T**he little fellow was held tightly in his mother's arms during the first part of the **Easter Sunday** morning mass. He might have been tired or he might already have eaten too much of the **Easter** Bunny's chocolate. He was restless, energetic, looking all around. After the homily came the renewal of baptismal promises and sprinkling with the **Easter** water.



Father used an evergreen branch and the water flew abundantly, some hitting the little fellow square in the face. At first he stopped short, startled. Then the most gorgeous and radiant smile burst over his face. He looked around at the other people being sprinkled. Soon everyone around him couldn't help but smile. His radiance was infectious. The little fellow was wholly alive. This little fellow spread **Easter joy**.

**The news of an empty tomb spread from Mary to Peter and the disciple. They ran—hope quickens us. They believed—faith urges us. They witnessed to the good news—good news cannot be contained. Good news is infectious. Good news brings radiance to tired, suffering, worn faces. Good news such as an empty tomb and**

**soon an encounter with the risen One not only cannot be contained, it changes us. Like Mary and the disciples we become witnesses to Christ's risen Life. Our encounters with the risen One compel us to be witnesses, to spread Easter joy.**

**Easter Sunday** is more than a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. It is also an invitation to each of us to take our place in the long line of witnesses to encounters with him and his risen Life. **Believing** is radiating the joy of our encounters with Christ, bringing others to encounter him, continuing Jesus' saving work. **Believing** is encountering emptiness in others and bringing them joy and hope. **Believing** is helping others move the large stones that block their growth and happiness. **Believing** is running to help those in need. **Believing** is turning our Easter Alleluias into good works that spread joy and hope and faith. **Believing** is **Easter Alleluias** lived every day.

**Words to reflect upon: Believing is Easter Alleluias lived every day.**

### *The Gifts of Easter*

#### **PROCLAMATIONS OF THE POWER OF EASTER**

**PEACE** Awareness of the presence of Christ and his healing love; Freedom from fear

**JOY** My heart rejoices with Mary Magdalene at the encounter with the Risen Lord Alleluia!

**IDENTITY** I am one sent by Jesus to the world to preach the Kingdom, to heal and to teach.

#### **THE HOLY SPIRIT - THE VERY POWER OF GOD**

*Received through Jesus Christ*

#### **VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH**

*Forgiveness Resurrection*

#### **THE GIFTS OF EASTER**

will help us to hold onto

*The Alleluia*

# LIVING OUR EASTER LIFE

*We are an Easter People...and Alleluia is our cry!*

**L**ent, **Easter** and Pentecost are powerful seasons at the center of our Christian life and liturgical celebration. They are also powerful seasons of the human heart. Tuning into these seasons, with all their symbols, meanings and emotions, can shape our lives and the practice of our faith for a lifetime...

So let us live every one of the 50 days of the **Easter Season** that culminate in the Great Feast of Pentecost with the genuine enthusiasm of a truly **Easter People**. The Good News is really and truly GOOD NEWS!

**Remember!** Open your heart. **Celebrate** Jesus' victory over death in a noisy, joyful way. Sing Alleluia over and over in your heart every day. **Sing Alleluia** aloud at least once every day. If you're new at this, try starting in the shower... Plan ways to continue celebrating **Easter**: emphasize light by using candles, bright colors, flowers, alleluia songs, smiling faces and any other sign of new life that appeals to your particular sensibility and life style. I know a woman who pulls out her collection of rabbit figures every year at

**Easter time** and displays them all over the house. There is even one in the bathroom.

**Talk to your children** (and everybody else) about the **Easter Gift** of Victory Over Sin and Death you have received. Tell them about the kind of victory Jesus accomplished: love over hate, giving over selfishness, peace over conflict, life over death. **Believe!** This is very good news! There really are other better ways of living and doing and being with each other. The fullness of life is possible. **Easter** has taught us. It already lives in each of us; and Jesus is with us on the way. **SO, OFF WE GO!**

***We Remember! We Celebrate! We Believe!***

**Hafiz**, whose poems we often quote in our bulletin, was a remarkable 14th century Persian poet and mystic. May the spirit of infinite tenderness and compassion, of great exuberance, joy and laughter, of ecstatic love and fervent longing for his Beloved that illuminates his work serve as a revelation for us of the truth of God's divine playfulness and light and his sublime intimacy with us during this Easter season.

**The stars get clearly drunk  
And crazy at night  
And throw themselves  
Across the sky.  
Only an insane being or compound  
Is not going mad with excitement  
At this Wonderful Performance by God!**

*Hafiz*

*As we practice living our Easter Life,  
may Alleluia be our song.  
May we proclaim it loud and long!*

**Let us remember to pray** for each other in a special way this **Easter Week** in celebration of our **Easter Joy** like the loving and sustaining family that we are in the 9:30 Community.



## PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



*First Reading Acts 10:34,37-43*

What is the significance of the word "witness," in this reading, which Peter uses three times both as a noun (meaning "observer") and a verb (meaning "corroborate," "testify")?

What are some of the ways you can bear witness in your life? Should you witness with more than words?

*Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4*

"Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above." Paul tells us what is "above" later in chapter 3 of Colossians. He says that we should put on heartfelt compassion. What does compassion look like in your immediate world and in the larger one?

**— Jesus proclaims "Good News to the poor" —**

*What is this Good News?*

Ask the poor - you will get clear and immediate answers: health, shelter, food, opportunity, jobs, education . . .

— Dean Brackley, SJ

*"My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity."  
Diary 699*

Next Sunday is **Divine Mercy Sunday!**

To prepare for this great Feast we recommend praying the Novena of Divine Mercy which began on Good Friday:  
<https://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/mercy/novena.htm>