

We are an Easter People!
Alleluia is our cry!

Easter Sunday

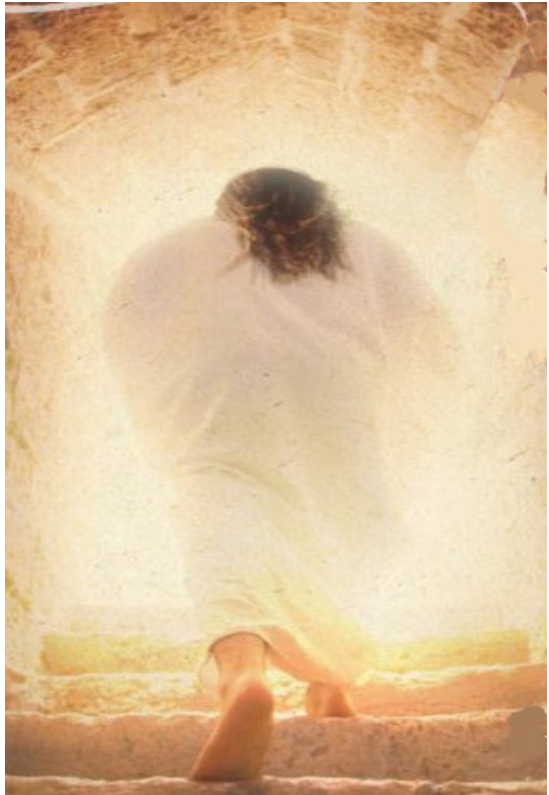
San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

March 27, 2016



REFLECTION ON THE WORD

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
FROM THE HOMILIES OF FR. VEGA

- 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 from the cross Resurrection

THE GIFTS OF EASTER will help us to hold onto
THE ALLELUIA!

Jesus' message is that the Kingdom of God is at hand. It is a call to create a loving society. Contemporary Christianity's overwhelming focus on individual salvation is a corruption of Jesus' message.

— Dean Brackley, S.J.

Loving and gracious God, in raising your Son Jesus from the dead you have given us hope.

May the Easter mystery make us agents of your light and love and life. May we truly be your **Easter people**.
Amen.

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.



LIVING OUR EASTER LIFE

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

Lent, **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!

God did not create the world in a day and neither shall we. But we do create what it will become every day of our lives. You are a sign and a signal of the world to come.

— Joan Chittister OSB

MERCY-ING

Some suggestions for keeping to mercy during this **Holy Year of Mercy**:

- Learn the Jesus prayer and use it.
'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'
- Take a few minutes during the week to stop at a church and sit before the Tabernacle, simply to be with Christ, the Merciful. If you cannot do that, meditate upon the crucifix.
- Offer to read to someone who is feeling ill or is just feeling blue.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to groan for you when you cannot bring yourself to pray for someone who has done you an injury.

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This reminds me of the old Irish "prayer" that reads:

May those that love us, love us.

And those that don't love us,
may God turn their heart.

And if God doesn't turn their hearts,
may God turn their ankles

so we'll know them
by their limping.



PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



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?

Merciful like the Father

Chapter 1 of Luke's Gospel tells us that Jesus sat down and looked at them and said, **"Today..."**

"Today" is the explosive word in this Gospel.

"Today"...That's it.

If we take these Scriptures seriously, we find ourselves sitting face to face with Christ, who looks us in the eye and says, **"Yes, today"**.

"You are my body. You have all the gifts necessary.

Look around you—right now, look around.

These are the people called with you. **"Today"**

"Go!" You will never be more ready for the poor, the captives, the blind and the oppressed waiting for you outside the door. Right now, they are waiting for you.

"Go!"

"Today"

Let us dare to say, ... **"Amen!"**