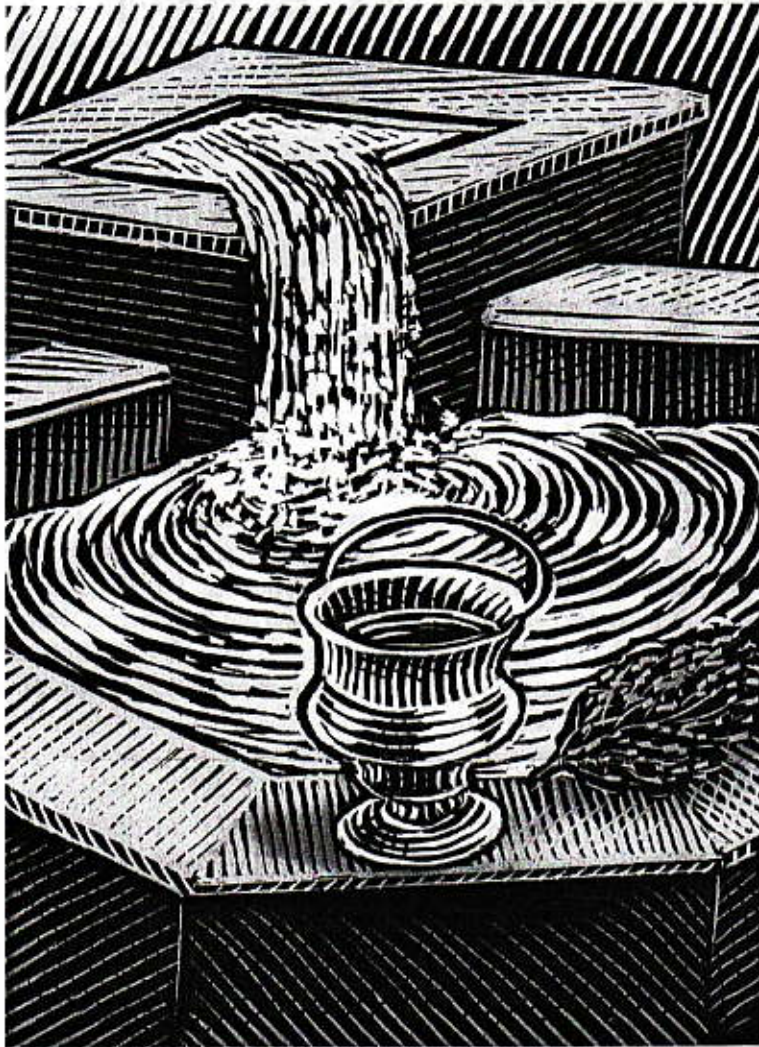


Easter Sunday



Resurrection Prayer

Most holy, most loving, most gracious God,
we come before you today,
rejoicing in your wondrous love.

You gave the life of your Son
and raised him to new life—for our
redemption.

You showed us the path to you,
though we had so often sought
a different way.

Let the joy of this day resound in our
hearts.

Let our spirits be lifted up in thanksgiving.

Let us renew our baptismal promises
with zeal

so that they echo in heaven
and guide us on earth.

Let us come to the Eucharistic banquet
filled with joy and eager for our mission
to spread Christ's name across the earth.

We ask this through the same Christ, our
Lord. Amen.

April 4, 2010
True Feasting

We come to this solemnity of Easter, hungry for the bread of life and thirsty for the living waters Christ promises. The disciplines of Lent—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—have taught us how to hunger; how to face our emptiness, poverty, and powerlessness. Like Mary of Magdala in today's Gospel (John 20:1–9), we approach the tomb, expecting a corpse, but finding instead emptiness and mystery. How many of us really know how to feast, how to give ourselves to the deep life-transforming love of God? We feel lost in the garden, unfamiliar with this Eden. Like his first friends and followers, we do not recognize Jesus. We mistake him for a gardener, a stranger. The traditions of the Easter season teach

us how to recognize God's presence among us, even in our loss, weakness, confusion, and isolation. Whenever we recognize that God is in our midst, our mourning is turned to joy. The experience of the Triduum suggests to us that it is not our outer circumstances that dictate our happiness, but our inner state.

Christian joy springs from a deep spiritual knowledge and experience of love's victory. There is no more death. Now there is truly nothing that can separate us from our God. This is what true feasting is about; we discover the miracle of God's presence where we least expect to find him—within ourselves.

This Week at Home



Monday, April 5

A Resurrection Psalm

The New Testament writers often made use of the Old Testament to describe the experience of Jesus. The law, prophets, and writings often described the covenant relationship with God that the evangelists saw fulfilled in Jesus. Today in the Acts of the Apostles (2:14, 22–33), Peter quotes Psalm 16:8–11 to show that even David would have recognized Jesus as that fulfillment. Psalm 16:5 reminds us, “The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup. . . .” Read all of Psalm 16 today as part of your family prayer.

Tuesday, April 6

First Witness to the Resurrection

In the early Church, Mary Magdalene was believed to be the prostitute who bathed Jesus’ feet with her tears. But there is no scriptural connection between the two. John records that she was present at the foot of the cross and comes to the tomb alone on Sunday. We hear part of that story today (John 20:11–18). On hearing her name called by someone she thinks is the gardener, she recognizes that it is the Lord and she rejoices. As first witness to the Resurrection, Mary is sent to the rest of the disciples to tell them the Good News of Jesus’ Resurrection. She witnesses to us as well.

Wednesday, April 7

Your Road to Emmaus

Today’s reading is the well-loved story, the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35). Imagine if you were one of the disciples, hoping that Jesus was the one to save the world and desperately afraid that he was not. Imagine that a stranger comes to you and inspires the confidence to tell him everything that happened. Imagine that you listen and learn when he speaks to you about the scripture. And then imagine that you suddenly realize it is Jesus after all. Between rejoicing and

kicking yourself for not knowing, spend a little time today thinking about what you would tell Jesus if you were to open your heart to him.

Thursday, April 8

Sharing Resurrection Joy

In the glory of this Easter week, it is easy to forget those who are lonely or in need. Psalm 8 reminds us that all people are “crowned with glory and honor.” For the sake of Christ who gave his life for us, reach out to someone who is isolated in a nursing home or hospital, or who is confined to home. Bring the joy of the Resurrection to that person this week with your visit.

Friday, April 9

Easter Thanksgiving

“This is the day that the LORD has made, / let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118 is a thanksgiving psalm, an outpouring of gratitude that God has helped the psalmist escape from the hands of the enemy. It is also the anthem of the Easter season as Christians offer praise for the Resurrection of Christ Jesus, who brings new life to the world. In your prayer this evening, name the people or things for which you are grateful to God.

Saturday, April 10

Good News

Today’s reading (Mark 16:9–15) briefly recounts three of Christ’s appearances after his Resurrection—to Mary Magdalene, to the two on the road to Emmaus, and to the disciples as they sat together at table. All of these we have heard before in other places in the scriptures, but somehow we never tire of hearing these stories. Is there someone to whom you could tell the stories—someone with whom you could share the Good News?

