

APRIL 5, 2015



EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



ACTS 10:34A, 37-43

PSALM 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4 OR 1

CORINTHIANS 5:6B-8

SEQUENCE: *VICTIMAE PASCHALI LAUDES* PSALM

JOHN 20:1-9 OR MARK 16:1-7

REFLECTION

If you've ever had someone you love die, then you know how Jesus's followers must have felt that Easter morning. As the sun came up they probably opened their eyes and, in the first few moments of moving from the forgetfulness of sleep to being fully awake, their new awful reality came crashing down on them: Jesus was tortured and killed. The man they had loved and believed and given up everything to follow was gone. The emptiness and ache of loss that every person experiences after that kind of loss is terrible. Mary Magdalene would have gone to the tomb that morning with a heavy heart and no hope left, her distress compounded even more when she saw that the stone was rolled away and Jesus's body was gone. She thought it had been stolen. Today's reading stops at verse 9 but if you look up this reading in John's account of the Gospel the very next part of the story is the first face-to-face encounter anyone has with the risen Christ. Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene who, at first, in her grief, does not recognize him. Imagine her joy when she realized that what Jesus had told her was true, that he rose from the dead!



"ALIVE AGAIN"

MATT MAHER

www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6w5szlpedY

ACTION

Today is a day for noticing new life! Take a walk and look at the sky, the grass, the trees. Notice any animals that are around from tiny to large, and the people, young and old, big and small. God keeps giving us life, each day when we wake up, and all around us.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● It's no coincidence that Easter is celebrated in the spring when, in many places, the earth is coming back to life again after the dark and chill of winter. What's your favorite sign of new life?