

March 31, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

PETER AND THE EMPTY TOMB

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Today's First Reading and Gospel

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

ACTS 10:34a, 37-43

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the

morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

JOHN 20:1-9

Reflection

In the first reading from Acts of the Apostles, Peter proclaims the story of Jesus of Nazareth who was put to death on a tree. He remembers being with him, eating and drinking with Jesus after he rose from the dead. Peter and the other disciples had witnessed Jesus' healing and doing good in Galilee all the way to Jerusalem, and now they are commissioned to preach the Gospel everywhere.

Fearless Peter! In the Gospel passage above, when Mary of Magdala ran and told Peter and the Beloved Disciple that Jesus' body was not in the tomb, Peter ran to see for himself, not understanding that Jesus had risen from the dead. He was still caught in the tragedy, the darkness and sorrow of the death of Jesus. It was not until more of the story unfolded in verses 11-18, that Mary heard Jesus call her name and recognized him in the garden. Then Mary ran again to the disciples and told them that **she had seen the Lord** and that he had risen from the dead! Hearing Mary say this, it began to dawn on Peter that his beloved friend Jesus was alive ... just as he had foretold. Imagine Peter's face as he listened to this good news proclaimed by Mary, transformed, standing there radiant and jubilant.



Image by Romolo Tavani

For Pondering

Mary had previously brought the “bad news” that the tomb was empty. Later she came heralding the “good news” that Jesus was alive. What a transformation must have begun to unfold in Peter as he waited for the chance to see Jesus alive, face to face, and to hear him speak, to touch his feet. Peter did see Jesus, and everything was made new again. All the disciples became fearless witnesses to Jesus Risen and eventually they went out to the whole world to proclaim the Gospel, the Good News, to every creature. Some thoughts for your consideration:

- When did the Good News come to you?
- Where did you meet Jesus Christ?
- How does knowing him transform you?
- What is the mission Christ is asking you to proclaim?

For Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ,
we come before you on this day of triumph,
grateful for the knowledge of your saving love
and for your promise of everlasting life.
In the power that comes from your resurrection, we call out to you:
Amen, Alleluia!*

FROM BENEDICTINE DAILY PRAYER: A SHORT BREVIARY

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