



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

EASTER SUNDAY April 4 & BEYOND

An Open-ended Story



We are in Year B and the story about Jesus' resurrection this year is according to St. Mark's Gospel. This Gospel is considered by scholars to be the first one written, and it is evident that both the writers of Matthew's and Luke's Gospels took a lot of material from this source. Scholars also agree that the last portion that we find in several manuscripts (Mark 16:9-20) was a later addition to the original because the original ending of the Gospel was somehow lost.

Although it is logical to think that the writer must have written a conclusion to his Gospel and that it got lost somehow, the fact is that what we have in the original

manuscript is an open-ended story. Could this have been the writer's original intention?

The narrative of Jesus' resurrection in this Gospel is brief, but it contains the essential elements that leave us no doubt that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was not left in the tomb, but was risen by His Father and our Father. This was clearly announced to three women when they were intending to perform the duties of anointing the body early on the morning of the first day of the week.

Jesus' body had not been properly prepared for the burial because the Passover was close at hand, so He had to be put in the tomb in haste. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb at sunrise on Sunday to perform this sacred duty. On the way, they must have felt heart-broken, and also worried about how they would get into the tomb that had been covered by a heavy stone.

Great must have been their amazement to see the stone removed and no Jesus inside, but a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, who announced to them that Jesus had been raised and was going ahead of them to Galilee. They were instructed to pass this extraordinary news to the disciples, but the original manuscript simply ends by stating that they fled from the tomb "for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

This is the most human of reactions before the greatest of mysteries: the victory of life over the dark forces of evil and death. It is something that ought to fill us with the greatest joy, and it does; but at the same time, we human beings are reluctant to accept the extraordinary, that which contradicts the expected outcome, no matter how sad it may be.

This ending does not tell us what the women did later, or what the disciples did. It has no post-resurrection stories as the rest of the Gospels. It just leaves the story here. There is a potential for development, for change of attitudes, for renewal, for turning normal fears and disbeliefs into something positive that makes us participants in Jesus' resurrected life.

The great thing about such an open-ended story is that it then becomes our story, not just the three women's story. It goes on throughout the centuries, and we never cease to be amazed by the terrific news of Christ being risen, by His total victory

over sin and death. Then, gradually, our initial fears start to fade and are replaced by our tremendous joy of knowing and experiencing that because He lives we also live, that He has conquered eternal life for us.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Sunday of the Resurrection – Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:14-17, 22-24 Colossians 3:1-4 Mark 16:1-8

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom.
The service time is 10am.

SUNDAY Easter Sunday 10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noon Mass in All Saints' courtyard

SUNDAY Second Sunday of Easter 10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org