

# Easter

Reading Mark 16:1-8

## Meditation

There's so much "hype" these days for every event. The Super Bowl gets two weeks of it. When the President gets a head cold, it becomes a major news story. And yet, for the greatest event of all time, the resurrection of Christ, there was nothing.

There could have been multitudes of angels with trumpets. There could have been heavenly hosts singing. Instead, there were three simple women walking in the morning to Christ's tomb. They were going to anoint his body with spices, part of the burial tradition at the time.

It was probably a quiet morning with birds chirping and animals rustling as the women walked. They wondered who would move the heavy stone to open the tomb for them. But

when they arrived, they found that the tomb was already open. It was empty. The resurrection had already happened! There was a young man there, dressed in white, probably an angel. The young man announced quietly, "He is risen."

There was no thunder and lightning. There were no trumpets. There were no angels singing in the heavens as had appeared to the shepherds when Jesus was born. All these things could have happened, but they didn't. Just one young man in an empty tomb on a quiet Sunday morning who appeared to three frightened women. And who was picked to be the first to receive the news? It wasn't Peter or any of the disciples. It wasn't anybody important. It wasn't even a man. In those days, women were thought of as unimportant people, just helpers to men. And yet three women were chosen to be the first to hear the most important news of all time.

Why is the story of Christ's resurrection like this? Why did it happen this way? For a very important reason. If there *had* been thunder and lightning, if there *had* been thousands of angels filling the sky, we would *have* to believe it happened. It would have been forced upon us. We would have no choice.

This is not what God wants for us. He always gives us a choice. God wants us to accept Christ and his love for us willingly. God wants us to follow Christ not because we have to, but because we want to.

So there is no scientific "proof" that the resurrection occurred. Nor should there be. But for us Christians, the

proof is everywhere. We see Christ's resurrection in the disciples. When Jesus was arrested, they were a band of frightened men. They ran away. Peter denied that he even knew Jesus. These men later turned into a group of apostles who were willing to travel all over the world with Christ's message and willing to die for it. We see Christ's resurrection in the apostle Paul. St. Paul punished and beat followers of Christ and then miraculously became one of the greatest messengers *for* Christ. We see the resurrection in the saints who devoted their lives to Christ and died for their faith. We see Christ's resurrection in Christians today who follow the example of Christ and donate their time and money to the poor, the needy, and the suffering. And we feel Christ's resurrection in ourselves when we accept and believe in Christ and his victory over death. God's Holy Spirit fills us and we, too, share in that victory forever.

#### **Prayer**

*Jesus, your resurrection is the greatest miracle of all!  
Even today, we feel the same astonishment and joy  
as those three women on that quiet morning.  
We feel the tremendous power of God  
who can create life from death.  
Jesus, with your death and resurrection,  
you give us hope  
Of life, forever, with you in your kingdom!*

#### **For reflection**

What meaning does Christ's resurrection have for me?

---

---

---

What good can I do for others, to carry on the work of the living Christ?

---

---

---

#### **Did you know . . .**

*On the Merelotz (the special memorial day after each of the five major feast days) after Easter, some Armentian communities have traditionally visited the graves of departed loved ones. Bringing choereg and Easter eggs and picnicking right at the gravesides, they whisper the Easter greetings into the graves:*

**Christ is risen from the dead.  
Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!**