

Our Household Church: Picture a Story

Easter Sunday: 17 April 2022

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

All: You are the living God. **Leader 1:** You have called us to share in your life.

All: You have created all we see in Creation. **Leader 2:** You have called us to be happy with you forever.

All: You raised up Jesus, your Son. **Leader 1:** The first among us who you raised from the dead.

All: You have promised to give us new life. **Leader 2:** The Life that will never end.

All: You promised in Jesus a life with no more anxiety or suffering. **Leader 1:** May this Hope heal us.

All: We gladly thank you with everyone who believes in you; **Leader 2:** with the saints and the angels, we rejoice and praise you.

Leader 1: Jesus brought us the Good News of life to be lived with you forever in heaven.

Leader 2: Jesus showed us the way to that life, the way of love. **All:** He has gone before us on the Way.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

You are invited to look at three post-Resurrection Gospel stories and to reflect on the movement from confusion and doubt to eye-opening, jaw-slapping, what-just-happened awareness.

1st John 20:1-9; 2nd Luke 24:1-12 and 3rd Luke 24: 13-35. Each of the Readings can be read or simply the Gospel. While someone reads the Scripture(s) out loud, listen well. Be aware of the image being painted, or the story being told. How does the story or the image call to mind anything similar in your own life or experience?

Holy Week and Easter are times for story telling! Stories of Easter Egg Hunts! Family Feasts! Spring Break Trips! Last of a season ski trips! Opening Game! that have been fabulous or frenetic!

✓ *What's your favorite family story/memory? How often do you get to tell it?*

✓ *When that memory is retold by others, how many variations are there of the same story?*

✓ *How has the story ripened and matured with time? (at least in your own telling)*

What is the connection between our normally festive lives in Holy Week - the stories of the Word incarnate among us and the actions which took place around him? Not all stories at this time of year are about fun and frolicking! In the Mid-west, most people have a tornado story associated with Holy Week. The Irish has the Story of casting off English Rule. Ukrainian and Palestine Christians, among others, suffer this Holy Week through a tortured life as they join together seeking Resurrection for their societies.

✓ *What thread of hope do you encounter in these three post-Resurrection stories of Mary Magdala, Peter and John and the house of Cleopas?*

✓ *What words in these stories offer consolation and hope for these people in their loss?*

✓ *What "action" were they focused on "doing" when an unexpected reality broke into their lives?*

✓ *What "action" did each of the "actors" in the stories do with their encounter?*

Good Enough! Let's focus on our Walk with an encounter of this post-Resurrection time.

✓ *Where are you standing just now in your "Walk with Jesus:" Confusion, Doubt, Eye Popping out awareness, or seeking the courage to transform what could be holding you back?*

✓ *With whom have you sat at a kitchen table when you have been in need for encouragement?*

○ *Re-Member the action of the one with whom you were sitting. Tell it?*

✓ *When have you experienced scoffing by others when you have come through a difficult time or were serious about changing life's direction? What did it take for others to walk with you?*

✓ *Each of the stories just read have the people involved becoming active witnesses to what they encountered. How do you witness the action in your life changing encounter?*

BREAKING AND SHARING BREAD

All: Jesus now brings us together to one table and asks us to do what he did.

Reader 1: Father, we ask you to bless the gifts of our table - (food,) bread and (a beverage).

Reader 2: On the night before he died for us, Jesus had supper for the last time with his disciples. He took bread and gave you thanks. Breaking bread, Jesus passed it to his friends [*Pass some form of bread from person to person. After everyone has had a chance to eat the bread, continue:*] **All:** Breaking open the stories of our lives we seek hope and companionship. **Reader 1:** Creator, accept us together with your beloved Son. **Reader 2:** Jesus willingly died for us, but you raised him to life again. **All:** We thank you and praise you. [*Pass a pitcher with a beverage. Have each one pour for the next person. After everyone has had a chance to drink the beverage, continue:*] **All:**

We thank you for refreshing us with this drink and for quenching our hearts' thirst for wholeness and respect!

Reader 2: Jesus now lives with you in glory, but he is also here on earth, among us. We thank you and say:

All: *Glory to God in the highest.*

Reader 1: One day Jesus will come in glory and in his kingdom, there will be no more suffering, no more tears, no more sadness. **All:** Help us live in this hope and witness its values in our societies!

INTERCESSIONS:

Reader 2: Father in heaven, you have called us to gather at this table as the body of Christ and to be filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. **All:** Through this sharing of agape, give us strength to witness of you in our actions.

Leader 1: Source of Life and Hope, remember pope Francis, (*name of local bishop*), our bishop, and all leaders of the Church – Lay People and Clerics.

Fill all Christians with the gladness of Easter. **All:** Help us bring this joy to all who are sorrowful.

Reader 2: Bring us all together with Mary, the Mother of God, and all the Holy,

All: to live as one with Christ in heaven.

Reader 1: Accompany those serving victims of COVID-19. **All:** Well up your wisdom within them and awareness of right judgement as they bring people to wholeness.

Reader 2: Enable Peace over violence! Calm the brokenhearted! Inspire hospitality toward all fleeing a reality of hurt! **All:** Help us bring reconciliation and resolution to our world!

[other intercessions]

All: Our Father!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!