

Christ Child Catholic Church
Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service

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EASTER SUNDAY
OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE
LORD
April 12, 2020

Matthew 28: 1-20 The empty tomb!

No Gospel pictures anyone witnessing Christ's resurrection. However, all four Gospels claim that JESUS did rise from the dead. The early Church learned of Jesus' resurrection from **the experience of Christ in their midst**. While the stories which grew up to proclaim this profound truth differ from one another in detail they all have the same purpose: to teach the good news of Christ's resurrection.

The empty tomb stories are a case in point. In Mt two women come to the tomb. When they arrive the stone has not yet been rolled away. An angel appears as a mighty earthquake occurs. Mt had previously pictured sizes the "earth-shattering" importance of the events at hand. The angel rolls away the stone not to release Jesus from the tomb but to allow the women to see that the tomb is empty.

Mt's angel has the same function which the angel had in the annunciation to Joseph after Jesus' conception. The angel explains the significance of the events. Jesus' body is gone from the tomb is not because it has been stolen. The posted guards, present until the stone is rolled back and now paralyzed with fear in the angel's presence, assure the reader of that. The body gone because Jesus has risen: "He (Jesus) is not here. He has been raised, exactly as he promised." The crucial message is repeated a second time as the women are instructed to go and tell the disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him."

The appearance story. The second type of story used to teach the fact of the resurrection is the appearance story. Again, details differ from Gospel to Gospel but the function is the same. Mt's story differs in that he does not describe the women as unable to recognize Jesus. **The women do him "homage." They recognize the divinity of the risen Christ.**

They are to be the first witnesses of the resurrection to the apostles. In instructing the women Jesus refers to the apostles as "brothers," a word that makes it clear that the apostles too have no reason to fear.

To get some of the impact of the Easter message for ourselves, we need to go back to that first Easter morning and put ourselves alongside the two Mary's who approach the tomb of their beloved friend.

They are struck with grief. They need to visit the tomb, much as we might go to the grave of a loved one to make sure that everything is in order. They are shaken from their somberness by an earthquake and an angel rolling away the huge stone and sitting on it. This messenger is described as a flash of lightning robed in dazzling white. His appearance paralyzed toughened Roman guards.

His message: **"Do not be afraid."**

He invites the women to come and see that the Lord is raised. He says: "Go and tell his disciples." Emotions converge: **joy, fear, puzzlement**. Then the risen Lord himself comes with the gift of peace and the commands

—
"Do not be afraid." "Go and tell."

The process of "come and see" and "go and tell" has been the means Christ has chosen to spread his Good News of salvation down through the centuries.

The "Great Commission" has not changed since the moment Jesus uttered it. Christians are to **go...and make disciples, baptizing** them and **teaching** them to obey. And they are to accomplish all of this by His power and for His sake, through His Spirit. When followers of Christ are slow to share their faith or pour into the lives of others, it is often because they do not really take Jesus at His word: **I am with you always.**

The tomb is empty. Christ is raised. We are proud to be an Easter people. Go and share the good News. Alleluia!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Call for individually by appointment

For Pregnancy Support:

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

MASS INTENTIONS April 11 - 17

Saturday + Calvin Andrew Stafford Jr.

Sunday + Cecily Olsen

Monday Parishioners

Tuesday The Sick People

Wednesday The doctors, nurses...

Thursday Parishioners

Friday For our Country

FATHER, into your hands I commend my spirit. Psalm 31

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis!

Dear friends, good evening!

This evening I have the chance to enter your homes in a different way than usual. If you allow me, I would like to have a conversation with you for a few moments, in this time of difficulty and of suffering. I can imagine you in your families, living an unusual life to avoid contagion.

I am thinking of the liveliness of children and young people, who cannot go out, attend school, and live their lives. I have in my heart all the families, especially those who have a loved one who is sick or who have unfortunately experienced mourning due to the coronavirus or other causes. These days I often think about people who are alone, and for whom it is more difficult to face these moments. Above all I think of the elderly, who are very dear to me.

I cannot forget those who are sick with coronavirus, people who are in hospital. I am aware of the generosity of those who put themselves at risk for the treatment of this pandemic or to guarantee the essential services to society. So many heroes, every day, at every hour! I also remember how many are in financial straits and are worried about work and the future. A

thought also goes out to prison inmates, whose pain is compounded by fear of the epidemic, for themselves and their loved ones; I think of the homeless, who do not have a home to protect them.

It is a difficult time for everyone. For many, very difficult. The Pope knows this and, with these words, he wants to tell everyone of his closeness and affection: let us be generous; let us help those in need in our neighborhoods; let us look out for the loneliest people, perhaps by telephone or social networks; let us pray to the Lord for those who are in difficulty in Italy and in the world. Even if we are isolated, thought and spirit can go far with the creativity of love. This is what we need today: the creativity of love... In the risen Jesus, life conquered death. This Paschal faith nourishes our hope... It is the hope of a better time, in which we can be better, finally free from evil and from this pandemic. It is a hope: hope does not disappoint; it is not an illusion, it is a hope.

Beside each other, in love and patience, we can prepare a better time in these days. Thank you for allowing me into your homes. Make a gesture of tenderness towards those who suffer, towards children, and towards the elderly. Tell them that the Pope is close and pray that the Lord will soon deliver us all from evil. And you pray for me.

Have a good dinner. See you soon!

My dear friends, these feelings of the Pope Francis, I make mine for all of you.

**With love,
Father Eugenio**

Prayer requests: can be emailed to
christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com