



## YEAR B - EASTER MORNING – 2018

During Jesus' time on earth there was one way a carpenter let the contractor know a job was finished. It was a signature, so to speak.

Imagine a hot afternoon in Galilee. Jesus has completed the final pieces of a job he has worked on for several days. The hair on his forearms is matted with sawdust and sweat. His face is shiny with heat. He takes a final—and

welcome—drink of cool water from a leather bag.

Then standing to the side of his work, he pours water over his face and chest, splashing it over his arms to clean himself before his journey home. With a nearby towel, he pats his face and arms dry.

Finally, Jesus folds the towel neatly in half, and then folds it in half again. He sets it on the finished work and walks away. Later, whoever arrives to inspect the work will see the towel and understand its simple message. The work is finished.

Our Lord's disciples, of course, knew this carpenter's tradition. On a Sunday of sorrow, three years after Jesus had set aside his carpenter tools, Peter will crouch to look into an empty tomb and see only the linens that the risen Lord has left behind.

A smile will cross Peter's face as his sorrow is replaced by hope, for he will see the wrap that had covered Jesus' face. It has been folded in half, then folded in half again and left neatly on the floor of the tomb.

Peter understands. The carpenter has left behind a simple message. It is finished.

It is Easter Sunday morning and the work is finished. Jesus suffered, died and rose from the dead. The tomb is empty. He is alive. And today, we celebrate his Resurrection.

We believe that Jesus rose from the dead. The apostles did not believe that, they witnessed the resurrected Christ, they did not have to believe. We believe because of their witness and that changes everything. Today we celebrate that resurrection.

We do so by renewing the promises made at our baptism and resolving to be witnesses on behalf of Jesus – today, tomorrow and every day. Please God, from this Easter onwards, others may come to believe because of our witness.

