

# SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



**Wednesday April 16 for Easter Sunday**

**OPENING PRAYER: O Light of Lights, Risen Jesus, enter our hearts with your Good News. Enlighten our minds to understand that you have overcome death by your own dying and rising. Melt our frozen hearts with this Easter fire, that in our hearts of flesh we might come to believe that you forgive even our sins. Help us to see your presence everywhere as the first light of dawn beams upon our clouded vision. O Radiant Light, be in our midst as we gather to more clearly hear your Word of Life. Amen.**

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage. Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

## **READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO John John 20:1-9**

The Empty Tomb.\*

1 On the first day of the week,<sup>a</sup> Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark,<sup>\*</sup> and saw the stone removed from the tomb. <sup>b</sup>

2 So she ran<sup>\*</sup> and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.”

3<sup>\*</sup> So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.

4 They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first;

5 he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

6<sup>c</sup> When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths\* there,

7 and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.<sup>d</sup>

8 Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

9\*<sup>e</sup> For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

10 Then the disciples returned home.

## Notes

\* [20:1] Still dark: according to Mark the sun had risen, Matthew describes it as “dawning,” and Luke refers to early dawn. Mary sees the stone removed, not the empty tomb.

\* [20:2] Mary runs away, not directed by an angel/young man as in the synoptic accounts. The plural “we” in the second part of her statement might reflect a tradition of more women going to the tomb.

\* [20:3–10] The basic narrative is told of Peter alone in Lk 24:12, a verse missing in important manuscripts and which may be borrowed from tradition similar to John. Cf. also Lk 24:24.

\* [20:6–8] Some special feature about the state of the burial cloths caused the beloved disciple to believe. Perhaps the details emphasized that the grave had not been robbed.

\* [20:9] Probably a general reference to the scriptures is intended, as in Lk 24:26 and 1 Cor 15:4. Some individual Old Testament passages suggested are Ps 16:10; Hos 6:2; Jon 2:1, 2, 10.

## QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

**1. The Apostles were surely surprised by the events of Easter morning. Can you recall a time when God surprised you?**

**2. Easter is the victory of life over death, of light over darkness, of goodness over evil. Can you recall a Good**

**Friday event in your life from which good and blessing came?**

### **3. What is the challenge of Easter for you?**

#### **Commentary**

In the prologue of John's Gospel one reads, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (1:5). This image of darkness and light, as also the images death/life and falsehood/truth, recur throughout the Gospel and lie behind the story of today's reading. Mary Magdalene comes "while it is still dark" and mistakenly thinks that "the Lord has been taken from the tomb" (20:2). Simon Peter saw the piece of cloth rolled up (20:7); hardly something that anyone stealing the body would have done, but apparently did not know what to make of this strange clue. The other disciple, when he entered, not only saw but also believed. This belief is the first instance of Resurrection faith in John's Gospel. In the language of the fourth Gospel, faith is the way in which an individual passes from darkness into light, from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Faith does not result from deduction but is a gift from God bestowed in virtue of the triumphant death/Resurrection of Jesus. The author is careful to emphasize the extraordinary nature of this faith in the final verse of today's reading. Only when this gift is received, only when one has entered into the light, does the full meaning of the words of the Old Testament and the mysterious words and deeds of Jesus become clear. Only then does the significance of the rolled up cloth become clear today's story is not about the disciples interpreting the empty tomb, but rather about the initial gift of faith by which one enters into the light, the truth and the life of Jesus' Resurrection.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom

Wednesday, April 16 6:30 – 7:30pm  
Weekly on Wednesday  
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting  
Time: April 16, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosEg23wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj\\_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosEg23wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY)

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618  
Passcode: 280607