



Easter Sunday (Year B)



Mark 16: 1 – 8 (Taken from the Easter Vigil Readings)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the Mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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Reflection:

It is interesting to note that earliest versions of the Mark’s Gospel ended with this final line, “They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” Imagine that, what a cliff-hanger. If they said nothing to anyone, what would have come of the message? We, too, are invited to come to the empty tomb and see for ourselves, to discover that Jesus is risen. But what will we say when we discover it is true, or will we walk away and not tell anyone?



Table Discussion (at mealtime):

Have you ever had the experience of hearing something that was too good to be true? What was your reaction to it? Did you share it with anyone? Tell the story.



Mom's Big Surprise (a bedtime story):

"Dad and I have something to share with you," Mom said as Sally and Toby sat next to her, one on each side. "It's important that you should know."

"What is it, Mom?" Sally asked, not quite sure if she was going to like the surprise.

"I hope it's something good." Toby added.

"No need to be concerned," Mom continued. "I think it will be a nice surprise."

"Are we going somewhere warm this Winter?" Sally guessed right out of the blue.

"Or are we moving to a brand-new house?" Toby added.

"No, nothing like that," Mom answered with chuckle. "Even though those things are all grand. No, dad and I are expecting another baby, and we thought you might like to know."

"I hope it's a girl," Sally said. "Then I can come and braid her hair."

"I hope it's a boy," Toby replied. "Then I can teach him how to catch."

"Boy or girl, it doesn't matter," Mom said. "We'll love her just the same."

"Her?" Dad asked a simple question.

"Or him," Mom simply added. "We'll love her just the same."

"When will we know?" Sally asked inquisitively. "When will we find out?"

"You'll have to wait until the rest of us," Mom said. "Not until the baby is born."

"Can I listen to her heart beat?" Sally questioned.

"Can I feel him give a kick?" Toby added.

Pretty soon both of them had an ear to Mommy's stomach, quietly listening; then, each in turn, whispering their kind words to their newest friend.

"Let's phone Grandma!" Toby suggested.

"Let's phone Grandpa, too!" Sally concurred.

"Let's phone every family member," Toby continued.

"I will phone my friend Bea as well."

"Now, now," dad chimed in. "Let's deal with this one person at a time. We've already talked to Grandma and Grandpa, we already told Auntie Suzie as well. But maybe we can phone Uncle Rob and Auntie Linda and hope that no one's told them. We can surprise them with the good news."

"Great idea, dad," Toby answered. "Let's phone them right away. I can't wait to share the news. I can't wait to hear what they might say."

(You may want to tell the story of how the news of your child's birth was received.)



Easter Activities:



(Though some of these activities are more conducive for Easter Sunday itself, many of these activities can be used throughout the Easter Season).

- Create an “Alleluia” Banner and leave it hanging for the whole Easter Season.
- Make Hot Cross Buns with your children (find recipe on the internet).
- Have a picnic-style Easter Party after returning home from Mass with an Easter Egg hunt for the kids. (You may want to use the bigger plastic Eggs that can hold eggs, prizes, scavenger hunt clues, Easter fun facts and/or riddles that children can solve.)
- Go for an Easter-day walk and look for signs of Spring (Creation coming back to life).
- After Easter Dinner spend the evening playing family games, sharing music or telling stories.
- Decorate Ukrainian Easter Eggs by heating beeswax and applying it to those portions of the egg that you want to retain the present colour. You start with either white or yellow as base colour, then you go from a yellow dye to orange, orange dye to red, red dye to purple, and purple dye to black. The accumulation of wax is finally removed by briefly dipping the egg in hot water and wiping it clean. (Note: If you are using permanent dye, please do not eat the egg.)
- Decorate your house for Easter, it may include bright colours, or have a carnival type atmosphere, with masks and billowy type clothing. Have fun dressing up in home-made costumes or clothes that are dazzling white (reminding you of Baptism and the fact that, as Christians, we all rise with Him).
- Create an Easter kite that you can fly outside (This may also be done on the feast of Pentecost).
- Create an empty tomb scene with snow (outside).
- Bring your Easter bells to church and ring them at the singing of the Gloria.
- Find a way to incorporate relatives or friends that live far away through live chats, phone calls or other ways. You may surprise them with the decorations, Easter eggs or other creative things you made for Easter.