

April 4, 2021 – Easter Sunday: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/040421.cfm>

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Col 3:1-4 or I Cor 5:6b-8

Jn 20:1-9

By Sr. Nicole Trahan, FMI

Happy Easter! As our Psalm today states, “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!” Alleluia! Today we are reminded that death and darkness do not have the final word. Our loving God overcomes the darkness in which we find ourselves. God is always desiring a new start—a fresh beginning—new life—for us.

It seems that this reminder is more poignant today than in years past. Many have experienced one of the toughest years in our lifetimes. So much loss and grief—fear and anxiety—loneliness and isolation—uncertainty and disruption. Add to that the rising political instability and vitriol, the uncovering of white supremacy many believed was a thing of the past, and the ways our society has reckoned with these realities and it is a lot to take in. The year that has passed, in many ways, feels like one, long Good Friday.

We lived through and celebrated Easter last year. But without large liturgical celebrations, without family, and for a great number of people with a heightened level of stress. Therefore, we need reminders that God can and does break through. New life can and does come from death. The tomb, although sealed with a heavy stone, was empty. The story was not over. And neither is ours.

Like Mary of Magdala we find ourselves on the brink of something new. She may not have understood exactly what it was she was seeing, but she knew something significant was happening. And she knew she could not keep it to herself. What about us? Do we recognize this moment of *kairos* - this opportune moment in which God is bringing about something new? Can we be bearers of this newness? The Easter Sequence states, “Speak, Mary, declaring what you saw, wayfaring.” What have we seen as we’ve journeyed through this year?

One of the options for our second reading today, from First Corinthians, tells us that the old yeast needs to be cleared out in order to make a fresh batch of dough. As we move forward in this Easter season and beyond, our call is to participate in creating new dough and being new yeast.

These days people talk about returning to a pre-pandemic normal—a return to the way things used to be. What would it look like, though, if we took this opportunity to do something new - to create a different normal that is infused with the lessons of the past year? Lessons in patience,

gratitude, our need for community and interdependence, combined with an openness to social and personal change? This is the message to which we've been commissioned to preach and to testify, like Mary of Magdala and the apostles, so that we can be agents of God's transforming presence.

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