

Sunday, April 21, 2019. Morning. One of his followers meets Jesus shortly after he rises from the dead and thinks him to be a gardener. His rising from the dead would be far too great to be true. So too do we in our own limited mind attempt to grasp great things of God by reducing them down to our own human level.

Afternoon. We were taught as little kids that Jesus rose from the dead. What did it mean to us then? What does it mean for us now? Sit with the greatness of the event and allow it to expand our understanding of the resurrection.

Evening. Take any aspect of the Resurrection and allow it to transform your understanding of life.

Monday, April 22, 2019. Morning. Jesus did not abandon his followers in his death. He returned to them in his Resurrection. So do we need to hold firm in faith when it feels like God has abandoned us or let us down.

Afternoon. Jesus has the last word. No matter how bad things get, we must believe that Jesus is still in charge. Yes, he did hang on the cross, seemingly defeated by the powers of evil. But he rose from the dead and showed himself to be greater than the evil that nailed him to the cross.

Evening. Jesus appeared only to his followers who had loved him throughout his three year ministry. He did not appear to those who had condemned him or killed him. Our life is one of identifying with those who love us and not proving ourselves to those who hate us.

Tuesday, April 23, 2019. Morning. Jesus takes care of unfinished business. St Peter had denied three times that he knew Jesus. In the resurrection scene, Jesus reverses Peter's threefold denial by asking Peter to assert three times that he loves Jesus. This was one little reversal for Peter's benefit.

Afternoon. Remembering back to Holy Thursday, Jesus performed a huge reversal. At the beginning of human history, Adam sinned in a Garden by disobeying God and thereby sin entered into the world. Jesus, in a Garden, obeyed God and thereby set himself up to forgive everybody and anybody who had sinned past, present and future.

Evening. Jesus conquered death. There is nothing in us that would enable us to have an afterlife. The grave would be our final resting place. But we are invited to follow Jesus into his resurrection, and in accepting that invitation we can enjoy eternal life with God and the angels and saints in Heaven.

Wednesday, April 24, 2019. Morning. Our death and rebirth began symbolically in baptism. Going down into the water and drowning and rising up out of it to new life. Prefigured by the flood of Noah's time, in which our entire planet drowned under the water and came up for a second chance.

Afternoon. Our death and rebirth was again prefigured by Moses parting the Red Sea so that the people of Israel could wade through the water and into freedom from the iron-hand rule of their Egyptian oppressors, who drowned in that very water, as they pursued the Israelites.

Evening. We begin our sacramental journey by going down into the waters of baptism and coming up into new life. We end our earthly journey by passing through death and into eternal life, made possible by Jesus' resurrection.

Thursday, April 25, 2019. Morning. The entire Christian life can be summed up in two words: Imitate Jesus. Let us imitate him in the smallest of actions: to give a cup of water to someone in his name, as well as in the greatest of all actions, when that moment comes, to respond to his invitation to follow in his wake through death and into everlasting life.

Afternoon. Of course, in our human fear, we will still be afraid of death, but in faith, we can take comfort that as the tomb was not the final end for Jesus, so the grave is NOT the final end for us, but rather death is a rebirth into eternal life.

Evening. While we responsibly follow the political candidates so that we can make informed votes now in the primaries and elections, both local and national, let us lose ourselves in the reality that Jesus is our ultimate leader.

Friday, April 26, 2019. Morning. Jesus is truly the one-man show. He is the author of the law and commandments for us to follow. He is judge, jury, and—with Good Friday still fresh in our minds—we know that he is also the executed. Not because he, himself, sinned, which being God, he was incapable of doing, but rather because we sinned and he stepped in to take the punishment that was due to us, owing to our own sins.

Afternoon. We do not escape the consequences of our own mistakes, follies, and sins. But we can be forgiven of our sins because Jesus stepped in on our behalf — in his death and resurrection.

Evening. For those of us who long to belong, let us fully embrace the reality that we have become adopted brothers and sisters to Jesus and members of the larger Christian family through our baptism. And in confirmation, we become full-fledged and “full-pledged” members of the Church, receiving spiritual strength and special graces to help us better witness to Christ.

Saturday April 27, 2019. Morning. From Holy Saturday, The Easter Exultet sums up changes that are greater than any we could accomplish on our own, and, in fact, greater than we could ever dream of, “The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy; it casts out hatred, brings us peace.”

Afternoon. Jesus has conquered the bonds of death. Jesus has freed us from our slavery—not to the Egyptians, not to the Philistines—but from our slavery to sin itself.

Evening. Jesus has given us his very self as our Lord and Savior, and the King who will rule all of creation in his Second Coming. Jesus has risen from the dead. Jesus changed history forever. Jesus changed *our* lives forever.