

Sunday, May 12, 2019.

Morning. Lent has brought us to Easter. A single day and yet a full week... and even more, a week of weeks, or 49, plus one gives us 50 days. Easter is just too big to be contained in 24 hours. We spent 40 days or 6 and 1/2 weeks preparing for Easter so that we simply did not stumble upon it as we would many of the other days of the year.

Afternoon. Easter is too big to be contained in 24 hours. We spent the eight days, Easter Sunday to Divine Mercy Sunday, saying many of the same prayers at mass and during the liturgy of the hours because in a very real way each one of those days was Easter, which owing to the greatness of the event of the resurrection could not be contained in a mere 24 hours.

Evening. Easter is too big to be contained in a long week of eight days. Easter finds itself still being celebrated on Divine Mercy Sunday and continuing right on through for several more weeks. In the beauty of the church's calendar, Easter is more than a day, it is a week. And yet, Easter is more than a week, it is a week of weeks! It is seven weeks long, plus one day gives us 50 days! The Easter season is a full 50 days long and culminates in Pentecost (a feast taking its name from the Greek word for five (Pente), which gives us the 50 days of Easter).

Monday, May 13, 2019.

Morning. And yet, Easter is even more than a week, it is a week of weeks! It is seven weeks long, plus one day gives us 50 days! The Easter season is a full 50 days long and culminates in Pentecost (a feast taking its name from the Greek word for five (Pente), which gives us the 50 days of Easter).

Afternoon. Easter is certainly an important day on the church's calendar. For 6 and 1/2 weeks of Lent, the Church prepares us for Easter Sunday itself. For seven weeks after Easter Sunday itself, we continue to celebrate the Resurrection in the First and Second and Third and... Seventh Weeks of Easter.

Evening. The Resurrection is such a big part of our life that it determines a full 25% (13 and 1/2 weeks) of the church's year-long calendar. So let us prepare ourselves for a commitment to spend the next several days focusing on the Resurrection scenes from Matthew 28 and Mark 16 and Luke 24.

Tuesday, May 14, 2019. Morning. The women prepare spices. Then they set off toward the tomb where Jesus had been laid. Along the way they wonder how they will get into the tomb to anoint Jesus with the spices, for the tomb had been sealed with a large stone. We, too, set off to carry out our responsibilities and consider the obstacles that we might face.

Afternoon. As they approach the tomb, they find the stone rolled back and a clear entrance into the tomb. How many times do we find that the obstacles we had anticipated do not materialize? How many times do we find that the things we worry about never materialize?

Evening. On entering the tomb they see a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they are utterly amazed. Having been taught that Jesus rose from the dead, before we even knew what death meant, we have a completely different mindset than did the original followers of Jesus. They had seen him die on the cross. They expected to find his lifeless body in the tomb.

Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Morning. The Angel asks, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? Jesus is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day." Yes, he is risen!

Afternoon. The Angel continues, "Go quickly and tell his disciples and Peter that he has been raised from the dead." As they were not to sit with this wonderful news and keep it secret, so we are also called to proclaim the Good News to others. "Jesus is risen! He has conquered sin and death."

Evening. The women ran to announce this to his disciples. They did not walk. They ran! And so are we called to be energized by the reality that Jesus has risen from the dead. Death does not have the final word. Yes, the grave is the final resting place for our body, but our soul has a future!

Thursday, May 16, 2019. Morning. When Jesus' other followers heard from the women that Jesus was alive, they did not believe. Sometime later, Jesus appears to two of the men and they returned and told the others. But the others did not believe them either. Faith is the belief that Jesus rose from the dead.

Afternoon. Faith is the belief that Jesus rose from the dead. And some of his original followers were slow in coming to that faith. We may experience a lack of faith among those with whom we attempt to share the Good News. But that does not stop us from proclaiming that Jesus has risen!

Evening. Those of us who knew that Jesus rose from the dead before we even knew what death meant are not in danger of being non-believers. Our challenge is allowing the magnitude of what it means that Jesus rose from the dead to fully influence and effect our lives. That he rose from the dead is not simply a fact that we file away with all of the other facts that we have memorized. His rising from the dead transforms our very way of thinking and living!

Friday, May 17, 2019. Morning. (Emmaus, Luke 24) As mentioned above, Jesus had appeared to two men and it took place in this way. The men were walking alone and conversing, speaking about how Jesus had died. Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but they did not realize that it was Jesus. How many times do we encounter Jesus in others and encounter Jesus' influence and work in our lives and not realize that it is Jesus!

Afternoon. The examen is a spiritual exercise in which we periodically, perhaps once a day in the evening, reflect on the last twenty-four hours to see how Jesus may have acted in our lives. Doing this every night for a week is seven times. A month would be thirty times. A year would be 300+ times. Three years would be a 1,000 times!

Evening. Doing the examen regularly over a long period of time develops our intuition — our spiritual insight — so that we become much more attuned at realizing when Jesus is working in our lives.

Saturday, May 18, 2019. Morning. Jesus asks the two men, “What are you discussing as you walk along?” One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know that Jesus was crucified?” Appreciate the irony of the question.

Afternoon. The irony: Cleopas, not knowing that it is Jesus to whom he is speaking, asks Jesus if he does not know what happened to Jesus. Early on in our faith journey, we often greatly underestimate the wisdom and power of Almighty God.

Evening. Early in our faith life, we often think that we know better and question why would God act the way that he did in the early books of the Bible? And with respect to the New Testament, how many times did we question why Jesus would say what he said, as represented in some of his parables?