

# Wellspring Fransalian Center for Spirituality

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April 5, 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

We began our Journey through the Season of Lent with a cross traced in ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. We heard God's call to repent and believe and "Come Home...wherever you may have been and whatever you may have been doing...Come Home." We met Jesus in different situations during our journey through lent. We heard his word and saw the way he interacted with various kinds and types of people in all kinds of situations. We saw him facing temptations in the dessert, transfigured on the mountain, offering life-giving water to a woman in a Samaritan town, healing a man born blind, raising Lazarus from the dead, riding on an Ass into Jerusalem, celebrating Passover with his disciples and being judged, condemned, crucified and buried.

Our Lenten journey brings us now to Easter - to new life, to new beginnings and to a new presence. We celebrate our call to be an Easter People, a people transformed by the death and resurrection of Jesus, a people who must continue to journey in faith, in hope and in love. **We must move on and meet Jesus, alive, where we are, now, at this point in our history.**

The Gospel of Mark (Mark 16:1-9) tells us the story of the women of Jerusalem racing to the tomb of Jesus and finding the tomb empty. A young man in white robe told them to go and tell Peter and the other disciples that Jesus was going ahead of them into Galilee. The women raced from the tomb, bewildered and fearful, to tell the disciples what they found. They brought great news to the disciples: The risen Jesus was going to meet them in Galilee. **It is great news for us as well. He is going to meet us in our own Galilee. So we must move with confidence in his presence on our journey.**

After hearing from the women who visited the tomb, Peter and John raced to the tomb because they wanted to see that it was empty for themselves. They had just spent three dark days in pain and grief. They had helplessly watched their beloved Master being taken away from them, beaten, judged, publicly tortured, mocked, and crucified. He died, and His lifeless body had been put into a tomb. He had told them he would rise again, but as was true about many other things that he told them, they couldn't really grasp yet what that meant.

Nothing like this had happened since the world began, that a man would rise from the dead. Jesus had resurrected others, but it was hardly comprehensible that He could resurrect Himself. Even though they had seen His Transfiguration not long before, the reality of His passion and death had intervened and obscured the promise of that vision. These were practical men, who

not long ago had been fishermen. Everybody knows that when you are dead, you are gone from this earth for good. Hope seemed dead.

But then that morning, hope had risen again. They had just heard from Mary Magdalene that she had seen the Lord. She had gone early to the tomb with some other women planning to anoint His dead body. Instead, to her great joy, she had met Him alive in His risen body. Jesus had told her to go back and tell Peter and the other disciples to meet Him in Galilee. Peter and John raced to the tomb because they wanted to see what she saw with their own eyes.

The Gospel of Mark (Mark 16:9-15) tells us that Jesus rose from the dead and first appeared to Mary Magdalene, but the followers of Jesus refused to believe her testimony. The disciples did not expect Jesus to be visiting Mary of Magdala after his resurrection. Two of the disciples on their way to Emmaus had an experience of the risen Jesus, while they were on the road. The disciples did not believe them either.

**The experiences of the disciples and the women of Jerusalem challenge us to be open to the Lord and his ways. The Lord has his own way of surprising us! He comes to us through the most unexpected people, events, places and situations! No one expected to find the messiah in a manger or on the cross...that is just the way God revealed the power of His steadfast, unconditional, unconquerable, and benevolent love for us.**

In the Gospel of John, we read the moving story of Mary of Magdala (Today's Gospel reading, John 20:1-9) going to the tomb of Jesus early in the morning and running to Peter and John to tell them that the tomb was empty. Peter and John went to the tomb and found everything as Mary had described. This excerpt concludes by saying that they believed without understanding the scripture "that he had to rise from the dead".

Their relationship with Jesus, their master and Lord, made it possible for them to believe in his resurrection without understanding. Real faith is born of relationship. It is not an affirmation or acceptance of doctrines or acceptance of details of an event that can be verified scientifically or otherwise. **To believe is to relate...to believe is to trust...to believe is to be intimate...to believe is to be in communion. Our belief in the resurrection and our commitment to live a resurrected life is the result of our communion with the risen Christ.**

**Easter invites us to renew our confidence in the risen Lord and go on to our own "Galilee" wherever that may be for each of us, unafraid and with the assurance that He will meet us there. I wish you a faith-filled and faithful journey through this Easter season during these trying times. I wish you a very happy and joy-filled Easter. May the risen Lord bring you the richest and the finest of His blessings during this wonderful season and keep you safe in the center of His love. You and your family are in my prayer especially during this season.**

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

**Scroll down to read the reflections on the Scripture readings of today's mass....**

# **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

**April 5, 2026**

**The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have  
that confidence in God in his ultimate triumph,  
and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.  
(Basil Hume)**

## **Collect**

O God, who on this day,  
through your Only Begotten Son,  
have conquered death  
and unlocked for us the path to eternity,  
grant, we pray, that we who keep  
the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection  
may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit,  
rise up in the light of life.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

## **Liturgy of the Word**

Prayerfully read the first reading and then read my reflections below and spend a few moments of personal reflection. Do the same with Responsorial Psalm and other readings.

**Serenity means letting go of the inner chatter and opening our whole being to  
God who is beyond and yet within.**

## **Acts 10:34-43**

Peter spoke to a people who believed that they were the chosen people of God and that they had an exclusive connection with God. His words would have challenged and may even have shattered some of the traditional assumptions with which the listeners had lived. Peter's statements were bold and convincing: Jesus came into the world to teach, to heal, to forgive, to suffer and to die for all – "for all" would have been difficult to accept. Peter spoke of God's universal saving plan in the life death and resurrection of Jesus.

## **Psalm 118**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
For his mercy endures forever.  
Let the house of Israel say,  
His mercy endures forever.**

## **Colossians 3:1-4**

The author of this letter calls his readers to live the “risen life” because “you were raised with Christ” - we have died with Christ and are raised up to live in his company, in his presence. To live the risen life is to live as Easter people, people of the resurrection, to live a life of union with Christ, to begin a new way of thinking and acting and relating that is centered on the realities of the Kingdom of God.

## **John 20:1-9**

This excerpt tells us the moving story of Mary of Magdala going to the tomb of Jesus early in the morning and running to Peter and John to tell them that the tomb was empty. Peter and John went to the tomb and found everything as Mary had described. This excerpt concludes by saying that they believed without understanding the scripture “that he had to rise from the dead”.

**Real faith is born of relationship. It is not an affirmation or acceptance of doctrines. To believe is to relate...to believe is to trust...to believe is to be intimate...to believe is to be in communion. Our belief in the resurrection and our commitment to live a resurrected life is the result of our communion with the risen Christ.**

**Saint of the Day, April 5 - St. Vincent Ferrer and 23 other saints are remembered this day.**

Vincent was born on January 23, 1350 into a noble family in Valencia. He began his classical studies at the age of eight, his study of theology and philosophy at fourteen. Four years later, at the age of eighteen, Ferrer entered the Order of Preachers. His parents pleaded with him to leave the Order and become a secular priest. He prayed and practiced penance to overcome these trials. He succeeded in completing the year of probation and advancing to his profession.

For a period of three years, he read solely Sacred Scripture and eventually committed it to memory. After his solemn profession in 1379, he was ordained a priest at Barcelona. He was chosen prior of the Dominican house in Valencia shortly after his ordination. He eventually became a Master of Sacred Theology and eventually earned his doctorate in theology.

The Western schism divided Christianity first between two, then three, popes. Clement VII lived at Avignon in France, Urban VI in Rome. Vincent was convinced the election of Urban was invalid, though Catherine of Siena was just as devoted a supporter of the Roman pope. In the service of Cardinal de Luna, Vincent worked to persuade Spaniards to follow Clement. When Clement died, Cardinal de Luna was elected at Avignon and became Benedict XIII.

Vincent worked for him as apostolic penitentiary and Master of the Sacred Palace. But the new pope did not resign as all candidates in the conclave had sworn to do. He remained stubborn, despite being deserted by the French king and nearly all of the cardinals.

Vincent became disillusioned and very ill, but finally took up the work of simply “going through the world preaching Christ,” though he felt that any renewal in the Church depended on healing the schism. An eloquent and fiery preacher, he spent the last 20 years of his life spreading the Good News in Spain, France, Switzerland, the Low Countries and Lombardy, stressing the need of repentance and the fear of coming judgment, becoming known as the “Angel of the Judgment.”

Vincent tried unsuccessfully, in 1408 and 1415, to persuade his former friend to resign. He finally concluded that Benedict was not the true pope. Though very ill, he mounted the pulpit before an assembly over which Benedict himself was presiding and thundered his denunciation of the man who had ordained him a priest. Benedict fled for his life, abandoned by those who had formerly supported him. He died on April 5, 1419.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

**Hope is what you lean on when all friends walk away  
and all securities fall apart.**

