

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord • Year B • March 31, 2024

O God,
you anointed your Son, Jesus Christ,
as the One sent to heal us and raise us up.

Quicken our hearts to embrace his mystery now and always.

Amen.

Sunday Word and Eucharist

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

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

Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

John 20:1-9 or Mark 16:1-7

Reflection

Deepen

It has only been a few short hours since you participated in the Easter Vigil. The liturgy is surely still fresh in your mind.

It began in darkness and quiet. The holy fire was lit. Its flames flickered and danced in the darkness. As you watched, did your heart beat a little faster, especially as the acclamation rang forth in the darkness and the Easter candle led us into the worship space: “The Light of Christ!”?

The assembly followed that single bright flame of the Easter candle into the church, and the entire liturgy unfolded from that moment. Imagine the faith of the disciples, shattered by the events of the Crucifixion, plunged into doubt, perhaps even despair. And then the news came to them of the empty tomb.

Meditate

Peter and the other disciple run to the tomb of Jesus, which is now empty. They go inside. The tomb is cave-like, dug out from the side of a hill. Dawn has not yet fully arrived. So it is dark inside. Do they light a lamp to see? Or do they wait for the morning sun to illuminate the interior?

However the empty tomb gets illuminated, they see. The burial cloths are not helter-skelter or hastily thrown aside, as would be the case if a grave robber had visited. They are carefully rolled up, set aside from the face cloth in a place separate from where the body had been laid.

At that moment, another dawn occurs. Faith flickers like a small flame within the hearts of the two disciples. They did not totally understand as of yet. That would come later, after the Resurrection appearances of Christ himself and the sending of the Holy Spirit. But to be standing in that place, seeing what they see, is to be arrested—stopped short—by an awesome surprise.

Share

Death does not have the final word. God does. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and nothing this world throws at him or at us can keep us down.

We are children of the light and life. The power of the Resurrection stops us short and makes us wonder. What are we afraid of? Can anything truly harm us?

Do!

Close your eyes. Imagine yourself as one of the two disciples who go to the empty tomb. What is that like? How do you feel? What thoughts run through your mind? Take the time to share with someone today what fears you have—in spite of your faith in Christ’s Resurrection. Talk about how you might put those fears into Christ’s tomb and “roll them up” like discarded burial cloths, left behind.

For Reflection . . .

The Easter Vigil begins in darkness and ends with light. How might you be a light shining in darkness for others?