

# Easter signals life eternal

Easter Sunday (April 20): (R3) John 20:1-9; (R1) Acts 10:34, 37-43; (R2) Colossians 3:1-4.

Next Sunday is the greatest feast on the liturgical calendar. We bask in the glory of the resurrected Lord for the 50-day season of Easter, which culminates in the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. During this season the first reading comes from the Acts of the Apostles, the wonderful account of the early Christian community's struggles and triumphs.

The first reading on Easter is Peter's summary of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It proclaims Christ to be the judge of the living and the dead and that everyone who believes in him has forgiveness of sins.

In the second reading St. Paul tells the Colossians that our life "is hidden now with Christ in God." Paul meant that the work of salvation will not be complete until the end of time. Christ's reign is already victorious, but it is not yet fully visible to us. It will no longer be hidden when he returns in glory. Then we will appear as we really are — completely transformed through the waters of baptism. To live in faith simply means to realize who we really are and set our hearts on the things above.

The Gospel account according to John has some unique features. In the race between John and Peter, the Gospel has John arriving at the tomb first. More than an observation that John is the younger and the swifter, it is a statement about John's special position as the disciple whom Jesus loved. The same



Father Albert Shamon

## A word for Sunday

point is made when John enters the tomb and makes his act of faith — "He saw and believed."

The description of the burial cloth and the head cloth folded neatly by itself was proof that the body of Jesus had not been stolen. The scene is orderly. The disorder one would expect to be left by robbers is absent.

Our Lord's first appearance was to his mother, Mary. The beautiful Easter hymn "Regina coeli, laetare. Alleluia" was probably part of Gabriel's greeting to Mary before her risen Son appeared to her. Jesus' next appearance was to Mary Magdalen. He appears to a converted prostitute, takes her sins and buries them into the deepest parts of the sea never to have them surface again. Then he appears to the holy women, to Peter and lastly to the Eleven. No wonder Easter is a time for joy — Jesus stole from his followers the terrible effects of sin.

To expand their parking facilities, a parish bought a nearby lot on which a patch of Easter lilies had been growing. The paving company bulldozed the lilies and poured asphalt. The following spring the

pavement buckled and cracked as the lilies poked up through the asphalt.

That is what Easter is all about. We sing hallelujah, for Easter tells us that life is stronger than death; love is stronger than hate. Because God loves us he brought Jesus back from the dead to show us we, too, can live forever.

The most famous clock in the world is London's Big Ben. It stands by the Houses of Parliament and towers above Westminster Abbey. Its chimes play a tune. It is the hymn "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth." And because we know that, we also know we can never be really and truly down in the dumps. We can never sing the blues, for Christ is truly risen and death is now for us but the door to life forever with God.

## Daily Readings

Monday, April 21  
Acts 2:14-22, 33; Psalms 16:1-2A, 5; 7-11; Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday, April 22  
Acts 2:36-41; Psalms 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; John 20:11-18

Wednesday, April 23  
Acts 3:1-10; Psalms 105:1-4, 6-9; Luke 24:13-35

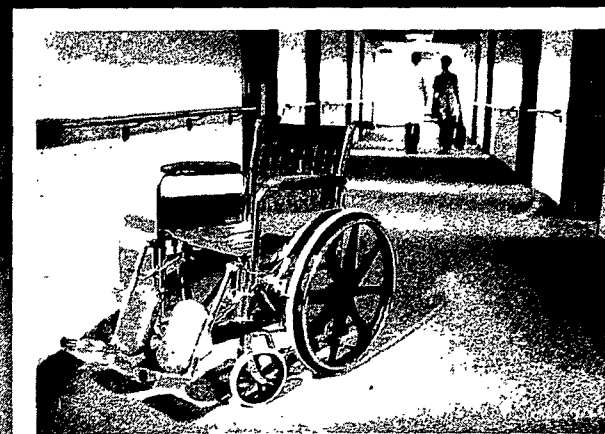
Thursday, April 24  
Acts 3:11-26; Psalms 8:2A, 5-9; Luke 24:35-48

Friday, April 25  
Acts 4:1-12; Psalms 118:1-2, 4, 22-27A; John 21:1-14

Saturday, April 26  
Acts 4:13-21; Psalms 118:1, 14-15, 16AB-21; Mark 16:9-15

## OUR PATIENTS ARE A LOT LIKE HOTEL GUESTS.

*They have a tendency to leave things behind.*

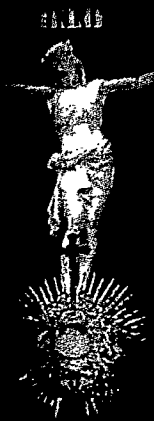


*Maybe it was the inability to walk after hip surgery. Or speak because of a stroke. Whatever the condition, the experienced, caring staff at St. Ann's Transitional Care Center helped put it behind them. To learn how we can do the same for you, call 697-6000 or visit us at [www.stannscommunity.com](http://www.stannscommunity.com).*



**S T. A N N ' S**  
TRANSITIONAL CARE CENTER  
*Full of Life*

## 'Can you hear me now?'



**Notre Dame  
Retreat House**  
**585.394.5700**