



# Bringing Home the Word

*Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (C)*  
April 20, 2025

## I Can't Believe It!

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

**T**his sentence can mean two very contradictory things. It might express skepticism, similar to “You’ve got to be kidding!” Or we might marvel at something we think is magnificent, far beyond our expectations. Here, it means “I’m speechless!”

Lest we think that the empty tomb alone is proof of Jesus’ resurrection, today’s gospel shows us that even his closest friends had initial problems with

the idea. When Mary of Magdala found the tomb empty, she did not immediately conclude that Jesus had risen. She thought his body had been taken. In the first reading, Peter describes how, later, several of Jesus’ followers experienced him alive. This experience certainly changed their thinking. Like Peter, they then went out and proclaimed the truth of the resurrection. However, only those who had the experience were sure.

Neither empty tomb nor someone else’s personal experience is by itself certain evidence of the resurrection. Then, what is? We find the beginning of an answer in the even later writing of Paul. Speaking to the Colossians, he says, “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (3:3). In other words, the real proof of the resurrection is the faith of centuries of Christians whose lives have been changed by that faith. In other words, the way you and I live proclaims whether Jesus is alive and well in us. I can hardly believe it. †

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## Sunday Readings

**Acts 10:34a, 37–43**

This man God raised (on) the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

**Colossians 3:1–4 or  
1 Corinthians 5:6b–8**

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.

**John 20:1–9 or Luke 24:1–12**

Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

## A Word from Pope Francis

The astonishment of the women is our astonishment as well: the tomb of Jesus is open, and it is empty! From this, everything begins anew! A new path leads through that empty tomb... the path of life in the midst of death, the path of peace in the midst of war, the path of reconciliation in the midst of hatred, the path of fraternity in the midst of hostility.

*URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE, ROME,  
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## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What deaths along the way have I suffered?
- What resurrection experiences have I been blessed with?



# A Ray of Hope

Gary Zimak

In my younger days...when forced to do something uncomfortable, I would always plan to do something pleasant afterward. If I had to give a presentation in class, I would plan to buy a new comic book or magazine. If I had to get a medical test, I would plan to go out for junk food afterward. Although the rewards weren't elaborate, they enabled me to divert my attention from what was frightening me and gave me a ray of hope. Although I still practice this technique, I have learned to rely more on prayer, spiritual reading, and the sacraments to provide comfort.

In our life on earth, it is inevitable that we will encounter many difficulties. We'll all experience our share of flat tires, medical emergencies, and personal tragedies. As followers of Christ, however, we understand the necessity of these burdens.... I once heard a priest proclaim that "Jesus never said, 'Come join the party!'" Instead, he promised us daily

crosses in this life and the possibility of eternal happiness in the next. (See Luke 9:23.) If we concentrate too much on our trials and tribulations, we can easily get beaten down and end up straying from the path that leads to heaven.

When we're dealing with adversity on a daily basis, it's difficult not to focus on our problems. One simple trick that works for me was suggested by my friend Michelle. She shared that whenever she saw the sun, she thought of the Son. The rays of sunlight represent his love for each of us. Although it sounds simple, it really works for me. I can't tell you how many times I've been driving in the car, worrying about something, when I see the sun and recall Christ's love for me. Before long, I find myself thinking less about my problems and more about God's providence in my life. I begin to speak with the Lord instead of worrying, and my sense of peace is restored. Suddenly, I've gone from worrying to praying. †

*A Worrier's Guide to the Bible: 50 Verses to Ease Anxieties* by Gary Zimak, (821639). Available from Liguori Publications. To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

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## Wisdom from Catholic Update

*From "Easter Redemption: Celebrating the Power of the Resurrection"  
by Fr. Gregory Wiest, CSSR*

Jesus taught that the love of God rises like the sun on both the good and the wicked and pours like rain on saints and sinners without discrimination.... (See Matthew 5:45.) Redemptive grace is available, inexhaustible, and abundant, never what we simply earn, and always more than what we can imagine. [Easter] is the season that illustrates perfectly the motto chosen for the Redemptorists by its founder, St. Alphonsus Liguori: "*Copiosa apud eum redemptio*," which means "With [God] there is plenteous redemption" (Psalm 130:7). Saint Alphonsus wanted this motto...to be a seal on Redemptorist hearts, to represent the Redemptorist charism, and to shape the lives of its members and the order's mission.

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).



Lord Jesus, as you have been raised, rise in us that we may love others as we are loved and rejoice in this beautiful life. Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

April 21–26

**Monday, Octave of Easter:**  
Acts 2:14, 22–33 / Mt 28:8–15  
**Tuesday, Octave of Easter:**  
Acts 2:36–41 / Jn 20:11–18  
**Wednesday, Octave of Easter:**  
Acts 3:1–10 / Lk 24:13–35

**Thursday, Octave of Easter:**  
Acts 3:11–26 / Lk 24:35–48  
**Friday, Octave of Easter:**  
Acts 4:1–12 / Jn 21:1–14  
**Saturday, Octave of Easter:**  
Acts 4:13–21 / Mk 16:9–15