

Reflection Questions

- How have you experienced resurrection as a part of your recovery and personal relationship to Jesus Christ?
- How has isolation and loneliness been transformed into freedom and unity in your life?
 - In what ways have your fears been outgrown and death casted aside?

Peace and Easter Blessings

All of us at Catholic in Recovery wish you a very blessed Easter. It is a gift to journey together on our spiritual walk, and we hopefully pronounce the Resurrection of our Lord following His crucifixion and sacrificial death.

May you and your family live as Easter people and know that freedom and new life awaits us all.

Easter Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

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

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:1-9

Easter Sunday



Alleluia! Christ is risen!

We've journeyed together throughout Lent in hopeful anticipation of Christ's resurrection. Celebrating the Good News that comes with the empty tomb, we live to testify to the resurrection of our savior. This is especially good news for addicts and others struggling with unhealthy attachments, who typically tend to suffer from a sense of isolation and slavery to compulsive behavior.

Belonging to a honest and open fellowship can effectively disperse the "chilling vapor that is loneliness" (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 151). If we share spiritual food and drink with other people who are on a similar path, we come to believe that we need never be alone—that we share a common Spirit that keeps us going.

Having someone to share our belief makes it easier to believe. In addition, as we share a common Spirit, that Spirit will shine out from us and attract others who may still suffer from loneliness and despair.

We heard from John's Gospel on Easter Sunday:

Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.

They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter

and arrived at the tomb first;

he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him,

he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,

and the cloth that had covered his head,

not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in,

the one who had arrived at the tomb first,

and he saw and believed.

It is significant that *two* disciples run together to the empty tomb. Of course, the beloved disciple got to the tomb first, where he "saw and believed" in Jesus' resurrection. But he was not alone long. Peter got there, and the first disciple's belief in Jesus' new life got a lot stronger when Peter arrived. Together—with each other and with Jesus—they outgrew their fear and became conscious of His presence.

We have new opportunity and hope as an Easter people. One Catholic in Recovery member, who was baptized and confirmed into the Church at Easter Vigil, reflects on the life-changing truth of the risen Christ: "Everything has changed. Totally. Forever. He is risen."

The resurrection of our Lord has continued to propel the growth of Christian communities and fellowships. While Jesus entered into the way of self-sacrifice and surrender to overcome death, He rises to bring new life to each of us. As people in recovery, we can find strength in the truth of His resurrection: "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life," and "We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin" (Romans 6:4,6).