

Lenten Reflections

Holy Week

The Divine Intervention

April 15, 2017



Scripture

Matthew 28: 1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

And behold, there was a great earthquake;
for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven,
approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.
His appearance was like lightning
and his clothing was white as snow.

The guards were shaken with fear of him
and became like dead men.

Then the angel said to the women in reply,
"Do not be afraid!

I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.
He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.
Come and see the place where he lay.
Then go quickly and tell his disciples,
'He has been raised from the dead,
and he is going before you to Galilee;
there you will see him.'

Behold, I have told you."
Then they went away quickly from the tomb,
fearful yet overjoyed,
and ran to announce this to his disciples.
And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them.
They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.
Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid.
Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee,
and there they will see me."

Our Scripture Reflection

All four Gospel writers provide us with Easter stories. And while the story line is essentially the same, each writer gives us a unique detail or two to prayerfully ponder. In Matthew's account, please note that a single angel appeared, rolled back the stone and SAT ON IT. What is he teaching us through this interesting detail? He wants us to know that the very human creation of a huge stone, rolled by strong humans to block the entrance of Jesus' tomb was no match for the divinely sent angel who by himself rolled it back. AND, by sitting on the stone, was saying to the women and us that never would any obstacle nor power on earth ever be able to thwart the plan of God. God wanted His Son to be raised from the dead and He was, period.

Food for your Journey

In a village in Denmark, there is a beautifully landscaped cemetery next to the community church. It is reported that at least a third of the gravestones there have the inscription "TAK." That's Danish for "Thanks."

A Prayer from the Heart

When the darkness appears and the night draws near
And the day is past and gone
At the river I stand
Guide my feet, hold my hand

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

Precious Lord, take my hand

Lead me on, let me stand

I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone

Through the storm, through the night

Lead me on to the light

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.