

Easter – C  
Holy Angels Church – April 4, 2010  
Homilist: Rev. Roland M. LaPlante

**DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST:** Tonight (today) our celebration is filled with joy and hope. Tonight (today) we can face up to any mess in our personal lives, to any problem in the public life of this tormented world, and say: yes, there is hope. Evil will NOT triumph. Blindness and stupidity will NOT triumph. Selfishness and cynicism and weariness will NOT finally have their way...no matter how long they have had a grip on our lives...my life, yours, the world's. They will NOT finally win out. Why?...because the Lord of history has conquered death itself. Jesus is risen! Jesus is alive with the whole power of God.

Listen to the witness of the people of that first Easter. Listen to Mary Magdalene. That lady had had PROBLEMS in the past. She had done some pretty destructive things in her life; and she lived in a society that wasn't inclined to be too forgiving about such sins. So, she was branded with a paralyzing, crushing reputation.

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Now Jesus was the best thing that ever happened to Mary Magdalene. He had revolutionized her life. He had broken through her personal bad habits, her distorted self-image, and that public reputation. He had opened her heart again, and filled her with hope and love and faith. She was the FIRST to receive a mission to preach the resurrection: In one of the accounts of the resurrection, as Mary approaches the tomb early in the morning, she is told by an angel to “Go and find the brothers, and tell them: I am ascending to my Father and your father, to my God and your God.”

Tonight (today), there is rekindled hope for Peter, too. Peter had disgraced himself; he had taken the cowardly way out; he had lied and run away rather than stick with his dearest friend and leader when things got really dangerous. Peter was heartbroken, finished. Jesus was killed, and Peter was a coward. It was all over for him. The only really important person that had ever come into Peter’s life had died

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KNOWING that Peter had run away from him when the test came. But then, there was that women's confusing report, and the scrambling run, and the tomb found empty...JESUS WAS ALIVE! And Peter would be NEEDED as a witness. Here was a new chance for him; here was forgiveness; here was resurrection for him, too.

Joy day; rekindled hope day; Easter day...the day Jesus restores US to life. The risen Jesus joins us once again to the God who created us and who now transforms us. All we have to do is BELIEVE and surrender wholeheartedly to the dying and rising of Jesus in our OWN life; getting rid at the same time of all the old impulses that have made us swell up with pride and bluster, or that have made us cramped with cautiousness, or that have made us selfish and petulant in our demands. As Mary Magdalene and Peter found a second chance, so do WE.

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Jesus can change us; he has the power, the energy, the WILL to do it. Even if we're nearly DEAD in our sinfulness, HE can give us new life. Jesus WAS dead, and now he is alive...risen, powerful, free. And we can all be the same. No wonder we sing Alleluia! Who wouldn't? Christ was dead and has come back to life! We too can share that new life. So, let us rejoice and be glad, because our salvation has come. Christ is here! He is next to you! He is calling you!

**HAPPY EASTER!**