



INTRODUCTION

Gather group or family members. Talk about what they know on the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion.

- How do you think the disciples felt on the day of Jesus' death and during the days that followed?
- If you were there at the crucifixion of Jesus, what would you have seen?
- What was the last scene? (Jesus was dead and was buried)
- If you were one of those who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What would you do?

In today's Gospel, let us see the reactions of those who have seen the empty tomb and how they came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.



OPENING PRAYER

O Risen Lord, source of life and joy your light shines in us. Send us your Spirit of love and truth, so that, like Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, we too may discover and understand in the light of the Word, We believe your divine presence in our world tells us that your love for us is stronger than any forces of evil. May we always live in the joy of your presence among us, even when all seems to be in the darkness of sadness and doubts.
 Glory Be.



**PHASE ONE
 REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS**

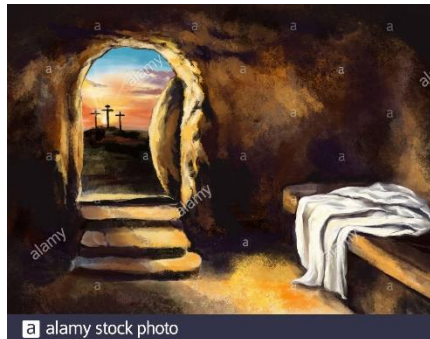
1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story John 20:1-9
(Enthroned the Bible on a table with lighted candle)

A moment of prayerful silence

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia! Amo ini an adlaw nga ginhimo han Ginoo; Paglipay kita hin Ginoo. Alleluia
 (Alleluia! This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.
 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one who Jesus loved, and said to them,



“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”
 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out

and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer

Which line struck you most?
 What did the characters of the story feel and think as they see the empty tomb where the dead body of Jesus was laid?

1.2 Text in Context (Understanding the Story)

1. What time of the day did Mary visit the tomb?
2. What something unusual did she see when she visited Jesus' tomb.
 (The stone had been removed.)
3. Who were the two disciples whom she immediately told about what she saw?
4. What did the two disciples do as soon as they heard the news?
5. Describe what they saw in the tomb?
6. What was the reaction of Peter and the other disciple (whom Jesus loved) when they saw the tomb?
7. If you were Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, or the beloved disciple, what would you have thought when you found the stone removed and Jesus' tomb empty? (Mary of Magdala thought that someone had taken Jesus' body. The disciples did not yet understand that Jesus had been raised from the dead.)

PHASE II REFLECT the Story
of the Church
(Teachings of the Church)



We all rejoice today! **The Lord is truly Risen. He came to bring us light.**

We come to believe Jesus' rising from the dead because of the testimony of the first witnesses. Today we see the first reaction of Mary, Peter and the other disciple (whom Jesus loved) from the Gospel. John, Gospel writer of today, uses the powerful image of darkness and light to describe inner movements within the characters: from doubts to believing, confusion to understanding.

The Gospel reading starts with this line: **Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark.**

The events of Jesus' passion and death on the cross and the days that followed made the disciples confused and fearful. The great Teacher whom they loved so much was dead. On top of their weeping and mourning on Jesus's death was fear of authorities. They were afraid that what happened to Jesus would happen to them also. All were in total darkness.

The end of today's reading says, *Scripture clearly said that he must rise from the dead, but they had not yet understood that.*

Jesus always knocks at the door of our hearts. We can meet him everywhere starting from our family, in our community, and many people suffering due to pandemic. Yes, Jesus comes to us with his eternal light. How often do we choose darkness and put off his light? Do we find any hope and joy now amidst life's problems and difficulties?

Seeing that Jesus' body was not in the tomb, Mary thought somebody must have taken the body since it cannot move by itself. Frightened, Mary ran to Peter and John and told them about the empty tomb. Both raced to the tomb and found strips of burial clothes lying where body of Jesus had been put. The other disciple arrived first. He did not enter further to the tomb but saw and believed. Peter went inside the tomb and must have thought that there is something mysterious. The two left the tomb amazed but could not understand fully what was going on.

Jesus could have gone up to heaven to the Father, soon after his resurrection, and leave the disciples alone in misery and guilt. But he appeared to his disciples on several occasions, between his resurrection and ascension into Heaven. He did this to show us the truth of Resurrection, after his suffering, death on the cross. This is the Paschal Mystery. It is hard to understand. In brief, it shows everything that Jesus has done to save us. From Jesus' Paschal Mystery, God freely offers us the **gift of faith**. We may respond YES or NO.

For example, Peter who became the first head of the Christian community testified what he believed:

: ... God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil for God was with him. [But} they put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day, not to all people, but to us... who ate and drank with him after he has risen from the dead.

The people rejected Jesus. Peter denied Jesus three times during his passion on the cross. Judas surrendered Jesus to the hands of the enemies.

God has overcome darkness of evil. Jesus' resurrection leads us to choose to live in the light of new life. We will see in the many appearances of Jesus to the disciples how he ate and drank with them in a friendly manner. He could have come with bitter remarks of abandoning him while he suffered. But his resurrection brings peace and healing to them. We see this transition in the life of Peter the Apostle. From darkness of denial, his belief in the Risen Lord leads him to the light of new life in Jesus. Peter became the champion of faith and pillar of the Church

How does my faith in the Risen Lord move me from the darkness of my own sin to the light of the resurrection?
Recognizing difficulties and uncertainties of life brought about by pandemic, how can I share in my own little way the light of the Risen Lord.

PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal
faith /community faith story

From the reading, it says that the other disciple SAW and BELIEVED. The other disciple is described as the Beloved Disciple. It is not difficult for him to believe in the Risen Lord, because he loves Jesus. Write a LOVE LETTER to Jesus. Thank Jesus for dying because he loves you. Express how you love him, too.



CLOSING PRAYER

Any appropriate song for Easter
The letter can be read as Thanksgiving Prayer

BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS

CCC 654 The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life. This new life is above all justification that reinstates us in God's grace, "so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Justification consists in both victory over the death caused by sin and a new participation in grace. It brings about filial adoption so that men become Christ's brethren, as Jesus himself called his disciples after his Resurrection: "Go and tell my brethren." We are brethren not by nature, but by the gift of grace, because that adoptive filiation gains us a real share in the life of the only Son, which was fully revealed in his Resurrection.

