

Look for the Lord Among the Living

Intro. {Vigil} We just heard a summary of the story of ourselves and our relationship with God. It *is* a long story; several thousand years. We heard how God created a people in his image and likeness, gave us a nice world, but over and over we find a way to screw up. But God never gives up on us. In his great love and mercy, God decided to send the Son to save us.

I. In the past week, we heard how the Lord entered Jerusalem; celebrated a final supper with friends; was arrested, crucified, died and was buried.

Tonight (today), we follow the women to the tomb to finish the burial rites interrupted by the Sabbath day. It was a sad group who dragged each other out of bed before dawn. The discovery of the empty tomb woke them up. The logic of the angels was

confusing, “Why do you look for the living one among the dead?” The angels reminded them that the Lord told them he would rise, and they believed. The other disciples did not believe the miraculous news; who could? Peter had to see for himself. The verse he, “saw the burial cloths alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened,” seems odd. I found a note that said home literally means “to himself,” “...so that the end of the verse may also be translated ‘he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.’” {NIV} [The Gospel of Luke, Pablo T. Gadenz, Baker Academic, 2018, p. 392] It took Peter and the others a little time to remember the Lord said he would rise, and they too believed.

Concl. {Vigil} Tonight, we stand in what once was darkness and is now light. We listened to how God didn't abandon us in spite of our foolishness. In a

Easter, 2022

few moments we will witness people who have made a journey. Some, like many of us, have taken a *very* long road to faith. They will profess their belief in the Lord and be initiated into our community through Confirmation and Communion. *{Vigil Last night at the Easter Vigil, we witnessed people who made a long journey to increased faith, initiated into our community through Confirmation and Communion.}* What an antidote, a loud “No!” to all the anti-life messages that threaten to overwhelm us. To our sisters and brothers who are struggling with life, we must bring the *light* Christ to their darkness; the *hope* that God always loves us; and be a *community* that supports one another. **In other words, we must look for the Lord, *not among the dead, but among the living.***

Fr. Michael Pendergraft