

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

April 4, 2021 • Easter Sunday • John 20:1-9

He is Risen!

This reading of Mark's version of the resurrection is rather short. In it the women see a young man clothed in a white robe who shows them the place where Jesus' body had been laid. He tells them to go tell the disciples and Peter.

Imagine the emotion and excitement the disciples must have felt when they realized Jesus had risen. Sometimes I think I have listened to the Jesus story so often that those three words sound like the “they-lived-happily-ever-after” to Jesus’ life. I forget how powerfully momentous an event this was for the world. Easter is a big feast day, a huge holiday—even more significant than Christmas.

Easter is our Alleluia day: the day we were released from bondage. This is the day fear, loneliness, greed, prejudice and even death lost their power over us. Easter is a new-life day—a “We are reborn” day! It is truly an Alleluia day.

This is the year to make Easter a big deal, even if you are reading this on Easter evening, it is not too late to do some planning. Have an Easter party. Make it a surprise party for the family. (That first Easter was sure a surprise for everybody.) Or, have the family help plan it. Invite friends, and the extended family. If you want, have an Easter egg hunt. Or play “Pin the tail on the lamb.”

Spend some time during the party to talk a bit about why this day is so special. Explaining why eggs and lambs are symbols for Easter is a good

way to introduce the topic of new life. Be creative; reenact the resurrection story. Talk about what the apostles must have thought and felt when they saw the empty tomb.

If you are reading this reflection out of sequence with the church year, and it's not Easter, have an Easter party next Sunday anyway. After all, every Sunday is a memorial of Christ risen—a celebration of our Easter joy.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Take this time to plan an Alleluia party.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Being reborn may sound like something a Pentecostal Christian might say, but actually it is very Catholic. How do you feel about the term, “Being reborn”? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?