

## EASTER 2016, March 27

“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!”

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### READINGS:

**Acts: 10:34a, 37-43** *We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.*

**Letter of Paul to the Colossians 3:1-4** *Seek what is above, where Christ is.*

**Gospel according to John 20:1-9** *He had to rise from the dead.*

### REFLECTION AND ACTION

About two weeks ago, I saw the movie, “Risen.” The story pretty much follows the scriptures, but the protagonist is a Roman soldier who is sent to “prove” that the followers of Jesus “stole” the body and are now claiming he is “resurrected.” Although I do not think this movie will receive an academy award, what the film pointed out as it portrayed the historical time of Jesus was that Jesus “had to rise from the dead.” His death on the cross was part of the ordinary course of events. There were three crucified in the scriptures, but the film expanded number of crosses seen at the site of Jesus’ crucifixion. Many received this sentence and it was clear it was for guilty and not so guilty criminals. But to conquer sin—the lies, the power struggles, and the contempt for poor persons and for people not like those in power, something very fantastic had to happen. Jesus rising from the dead was fantastic! The empty tomb a phenomenal event! The film portrayed beautifully the peace and joyful ecstasy of those who saw and experienced the resurrected Jesus. They did not fear, they told the truth, they believed that they had been saved, they stood by and for Jesus, and as Paul encouraged the Colossians in the Easter reading, they only wanted to seek Christ. Life on earth was totally different now. Jesus was alive, the followers were saved and only good (even from those who put Jesus to death) was possible.

### PRAYER

Creator God, we rejoice in our risen Lord. We seek to witness the risen Christ who lives in our hearts and in our actions. Help us to know Christ rising over death in our lives as we accompany the addict or alcoholic on the path of recovery, as we visit the sick and infirm, as we shelter the homeless, clothe the naked in our thrift stores, feed the hungry in our pantries and soup kitchens, as we visit the imprisoned or support the victims of domestic violence, and as we seek to build a global community of peace without terrorism. Help us “to go about doing good,” so our lives proclaim your truth, your mercy, your love and your peace. Happy Easter!