

ALLELUIA!

VOL. XXII Issue. XV

EPIPHANY

EASTER  
SUNDAY

April 17th, 2022

# WELCOME to Epiphany



The Gospels are far from clear as to just what happened. It began in the dark. The stone had been rolled aside. There was the sound of people running, of voices. Matthew speaks of "fear and great joy." Confusion was everywhere. There is no agreement even as to the role of Jesus himself. Did he appear at the tomb or only later? Where? To whom did he appear? What did he say? What did he do?

It is not a major production at all, and the minor attractions we have created around it — the bunnies and baskets and bonnets, the dyed eggs — have so little to do with what it's all about that they neither add much nor subtract much. It's not really even much of a story when you come right down to it, and that is of course the power of it. It doesn't have the ring of great drama. It has the ring of truth. If the Gospel writers had wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster. Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They seem to be telling it simply the way it was. The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself. When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty. That something unimaginable happened, there can be no doubt.

The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights. It doesn't move people to give presents to each other or sing old songs. It ebbs and flows all around us, the Eastertide. Even the great choruses of Handel's *Messiah* sound a little like a handful of crickets chirping under the moon.

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death. What is left now is the emptiness. There are those who, like Magdalen, will never stop searching it till they find his face.

# @EPIPHANY

**APRIL 17-24**

**SUNDAY**  
**APRIL**  
**17**

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
11am Family Mass  
7:30pm Young Adults Mass

**MONDAY**  
**18**

**12:10pm Mass**  
**Miraculous Medal Novena**

**TUESDAY**  
**19**

**22 Club 11am-2pm**  
**12:10pm Mass**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**20**

**12:10 Mass**  
**Our Lady of Perpetual**  
**Help Novena 12:40 (Church)**  
**Breaking Open the Word (ZOOM) 7pm**

**THURSDAY**  
**21**

**12:10 Mass**  
**YA Alpha 7pm (Parish Hall)**

**FRIDAY**  
**22**

**12:10 Mass**  
**Sant Egidio**  
**Prayer Group 6:30pm (Church)**

**SATURDAY**  
**23**

**4PM Vigil Mass**

**SUNDAY**  
**24**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
11am Family Mass  
7:30pm Young Adults Easter Mass

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

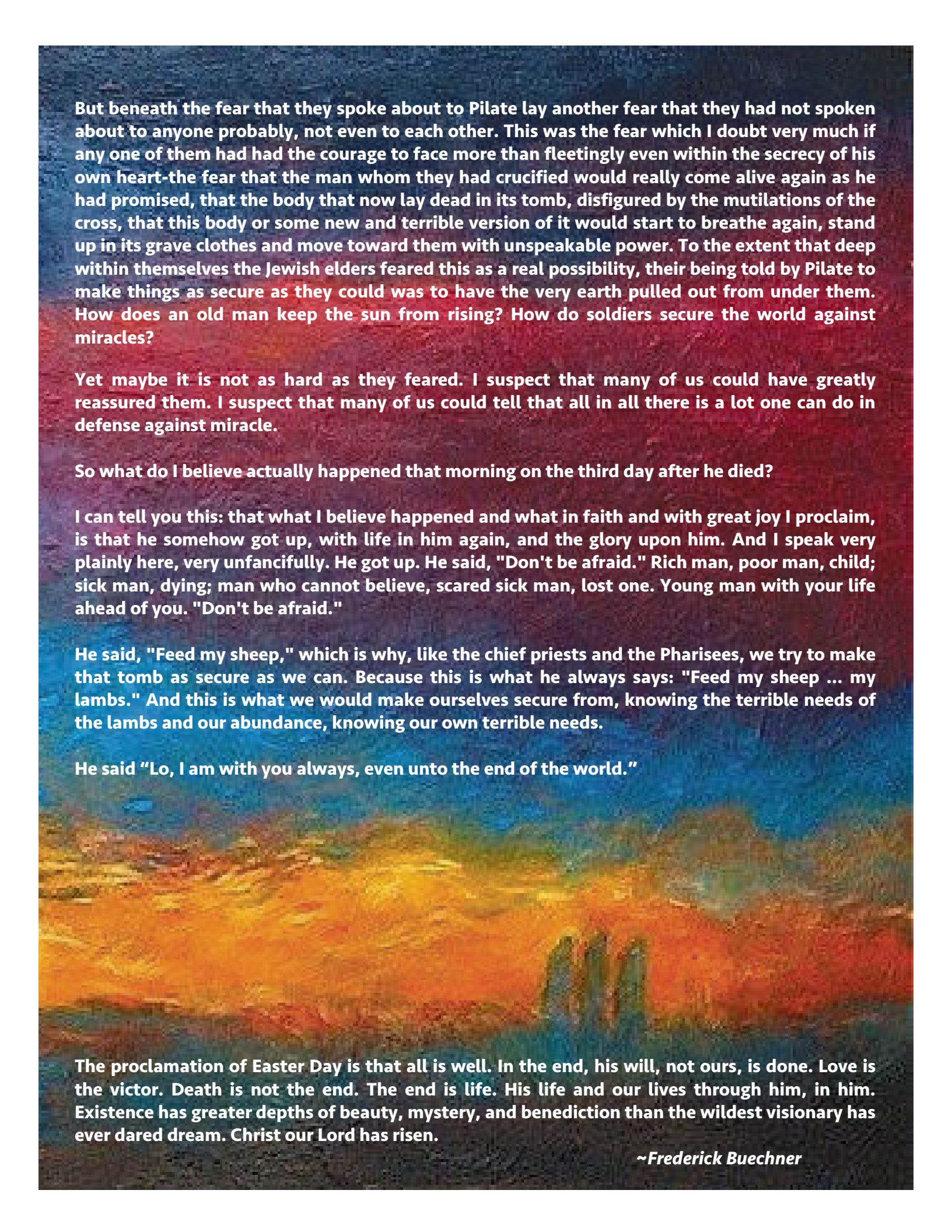
**Of ALL THE GREAT PAINTERS** of the world, the one that I would choose to paint this scene is Rembrandt. I would want it done in chiaroscuro, in terms of light and shade, with the chamber where Pilate receives the delegation almost entirely in shadow and with the light coming mainly from the faces themselves, especially the bearded faces of the Jewish elders, the creased faces of these pious old men as they lean a little too intensely forward to hear the Roman's answer. What will he say?

Then the helpless, old-man look when they are not quite sure that they have heard correctly as Pilate tells them in effect to do whatever they want to do. They have their own Temple guard, after all. "Make it as secure as you can," he tells them. This is precisely the moment for Rembrandt to paint: the venerable old men turning toward each other now, their faded old eyes wide with bewilderment, their mouths hanging loose - the kind of dazed, tremulous fear of old men suddenly called upon to do a young man's job. You are not sure whether to laugh or to cry. "As secure as you can," the Procurator of Judea tells them. But how secure is that?

Their lips move, but no sound comes. God knows they have good reason to be afraid.

God knows. I think that we can say they have two reasons for being afraid, although they mentioned only one to Pilate, namely, that the dead man's disciples may, in the words of Matthew, "go and steal him away and tell the people ... " So their spoken fear is the fear of a religious hoax.





But beneath the fear that they spoke about to Pilate lay another fear that they had not spoken about to anyone probably, not even to each other. This was the fear which I doubt very much if any one of them had had the courage to face more than fleetingly even within the secrecy of his own heart-the fear that the man whom they had crucified would really come alive again as he had promised, that the body that now lay dead in its tomb, disfigured by the mutilations of the cross, that this body or some new and terrible version of it would start to breathe again, stand up in its grave clothes and move toward them with unspeakable power. To the extent that deep within themselves the Jewish elders feared this as a real possibility, their being told by Pilate to make things as secure as they could was to have the very earth pulled out from under them. How does an old man keep the sun from rising? How do soldiers secure the world against miracles?

Yet maybe it is not as hard as they feared. I suspect that many of us could have greatly reassured them. I suspect that many of us could tell that all in all there is a lot one can do in defense against miracle.

So what do I believe actually happened that morning on the third day after he died?

I can tell you this: that what I believe happened and what in faith and with great joy I proclaim, is that he somehow got up, with life in him again, and the glory upon him. And I speak very plainly here, very un fancifully. He got up. He said, "Don't be afraid." Rich man, poor man, child; sick man, dying; man who cannot believe, scared sick man, lost one. Young man with your life ahead of you. "Don't be afraid."

He said, "Feed my sheep," which is why, like the chief priests and the Pharisees, we try to make that tomb as secure as we can. Because this is what he always says: "Feed my sheep ... my lambs." And this is what we would make ourselves secure from, knowing the terrible needs of the lambs and our abundance, knowing our own terrible needs.

He said "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

The proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. In the end, his will, not ours, is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. The end is life. His life and our lives through him, in him. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery, and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared dream. Christ our Lord has risen.

*~Frederick Buechner*

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## Thank you For Supporting The Cardinal's Appeal!

Goal	\$164,500
Pledged	\$102,820   62% of goal
Paid	\$82,020
Average gift	\$988
Number of donors	99

## MASSES

**Monday-Friday 12:10pm**

**Saturday Vigil: 4pm**

**Sunday 11am & 7:30pm**

## THIS WEEK'S

### ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, April 16** *Holy Saturday*

8:00pm *Solemn Mass of The Easter Vigil*

**Sunday, April 17** *Easter Sunday*

11:00am Cornelius McShane

7:30pm people of Epiphany parish

**Monday, April 18**

12:10pm Sally Marin

**Tuesday, April 19**

12:10pm Dorothy R. Walsh

**Wednesday, April 20**

12:10pm Antonio Lacza

**Thursday, April 21**

12:10pm Paul Guglielmo

**Friday, April 22**

12:10pm Antonio & Josepha Guillermo

**Saturday, April 23**

4:00pm Loretta Cooney

**Sunday, April 24**

11:00am Wallace Gilroy

7:30pm Ann Ahern

**Monday, April 25** *Feast of St. Mark*

12:10pm *intentions of Dominick Bianco*

**Tuesday, April 26**

12:10pm John Boland

***May their souls and the souls of all the  
faithful departed, rest in peace.***

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