

How odd!
This Gospel passage,
which the Church chose on purpose
to celebrate Easter,
doesn't have Jesus in it!
He gets talked about,
but he doesn't speak himself.
Things are done
but he doesn't do them.
He's not there!
Not yet.

The tomb is empty
and the disciples don't know what to think.
He had died.
They knew that.
He was gone, dead and buried.
A tragic, tragic injustice,
and they were devastated,
without hope!

But then the women came with a crazy story,
they'd be thinking:
"Could it be . . ."
"Nah! Couldn't be!"
"But then . . . what did happen?"
The gospel stories of the empty tomb,
capture a time of questioning,
a time of unknowing,
a time of uncertainty.

Such times can be fearsome times.
We like things to be settled,
we like to know what's going on!
We like to have things under control,
our control!
Uncertainty is not one of our favorite things!

Yet,
that's exactly what happens
when you've got God in your life.

We'd like to think that living lives of faith
would be living lives where everything's easy,
everything goes exactly the way it's expected to go.
We'd like to simplify our religion
into a series of mechanical acts,
where we know just we're supposed to do
and just what's going to happen.

But that's not the way it works.
A life of faith
is a life where you never know
what's going to happen next.
A life of faith
is a life where God's in control,
and God can be challenging!

The stories of the empty tomb
tell the story of dawning faith.
It was a time of transition,
moving Jesus' first disciples
from the lives they once lived,

into lives they never thought they could live.
And they changed the world!

A life of faith can be unsettling, uneasy,
but,
when we truly live lives of faith,
things change, we change,
we become what we were always meant to be,
but never thought we could be.

To embrace a life of faith
is to embrace a life of mystery.
You never know what's going to happen next!

[Our RCIA candidates
enter into new life tonight.
Each in his or her own way,
comes to embrace more deeply
a life of faith
a life of challenge,
a life of transformation!]

But all of us,
no matter what our state in life,
are called to enter into something beyond us,
to enter more deeply into the life of Christ we profess.
It can be unsettling, uncertain, even frightening in a way,
but the empty tomb opens into new life!

Don't be afraid.
Step up,
step into the Mystery.