

*Joy in the Morning*  
John 20:1-18  
Resurrection Sunday  
March 23, 2008

The first words Jesus says after his resurrection come in the form of a question. “Why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Tears are a language of love, and they speak of the depths of the soul, groanings too deep for words. Our tears are precious to God; he “hears our cry,” coming down to deliver us. The Resurrected Savior touches first our human sorrows and uncertainties and brings us to the dawn of new life.

**I. *The Night of Tears – the result of sin***

The events of Friday led to the mourning and disorientation of Saturday. The night that descended at midday over Jerusalem on Friday extended into the hearts and minds of Jesus’ disciples throughout that night, the next day, and into the night.

**II. *The Morning of Joy – the fruit of grace***

Mary’s approach to the tomb is suddenly halted by an unanticipated specter: the stone has been rolled away. She is walking in the dark and cannot see the truth of what has transpired. Yet it is here, in the darkness of the first day of week, that she is about to have her tears wiped away in the glory of God’s grace.

A. New Creation: Darkness and the First Day – God’s light in the Gospel

B. New Beginnings: The mercy seat in the tomb – God’s mercy in the Blood

C. New Intimacy: “Mary” – God’s presence in the soul and the Church

**III. *The Light of the City – no more night (Revelation 21:25)***

- Christ is the One who will wipe away our tears.
- Christ is the One who will banish our night forever as we enter eternal day.

**IV. *The One We Seek***

Now our lives, bought by the blood of Christ and secured forever by the promise of the resurrection, may be spent in confident service. Now is the time to keep moving forward in vibrant worship, loving service, sacrificial giving, and joyous hope, the “sure and certain hope of the resurrection.” Because he lives, we live also.