

In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Happy Easter.

You get a nice, sweet, short homiletic for Easter morning. We just read one of my favorite accounts. It is my favorite account of the Easter story. It comes from John's gospel. Jesus shows up, of course is mistaken for the gardener and then reveals himself to Mary Magdalen, and then charges her, a woman with that amazing ministry, that task. She is the first to preach the gospel, to tell the disciples the good news, that the Lord has risen. I'm struck by Mary's words when she goes to preach the wonderful news because she says it simply but boldly: "I have seen the Lord." I have seen the Lord.

Maybe she didn't realize it at first, but indeed, she had seen the Lord. She'd seen the Lord because the grave could not hold Jesus or God's power. Just when everyone thought we'd come to the end of a really sad story, we get the major plot twist. Jesus comes back to life because resurrection was a part of God's plan all along and it still is. So I wonder, what other things in our own lives have been or will be redeemed? Maybe redeemed later on? Things that appear to have tragic endings because the story is still being written, and in fact, the story has not yet ended for any of us, for any of us. Life isn't over. Life isn't even over for those who have died, because we proclaim in faith that in death, life has not ended, but simply changed.

The story isn't over for any of us. Hope lives on. Even death cannot blot out hope. All because of the resurrection. Sometimes I think we make a mistake. We think that Easter, that the resurrection story is a thing of the past. That's a story from history, as if we're simply celebrating this onetime event from 2,000 years ago in history. But that isn't the case. The resurrection happened then but it's happening right now. It's happening right now and will continue to happen into the future. A writer once said, and I don't know who said it, "The crocuses are blooming in our front yard. God is never out of sunrises or out of songs or visions or insight. God never runs out of Easter."

God never runs out of Easters. Never. I have seen the Lord. Have you?

Hallelujah, the Lord is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Hallelujah.