

I read a story about a gentleman walking in New York City. He walked by a manhole cover, and all of a sudden a massive explosion underground sent the manhole cover flying straight up, flipping over and over. The New Yorker, not fazed in the least, looked up, observed the spinning 150 pound disc as it reached its apex and started flipping downward, and, without missing a beat, pronounced, "Heads." Not amazed at all...

Too many of us today find it hard to be amazed. Life becomes routine. We predict the schedule of each day, and we are greatly disappointed if there is an interruption in that schedule.

Mark's Gospel, this evening, tells us that Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might anoint the body of Jesus, which had been hurriedly buried.

They came to the tomb, wondering who would roll back the heavy stone. They saw that the stone had been rolled back and entered the tomb. They saw a young man wearing a white robe, and **they were utterly amazed.**

**The young man said, "Do not be amazed!** Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified has been raised; he is not here. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.'

The Gospel tells us "the women were **amazed.**" This resurrection is a new story that has never been told before.

**The women are the first witnesses.** **THEY** proclaim to the disciples that the Lord Jesus lives! Finally it dawns on the disciples that the crucified one has risen. Hopes that were dashed come back to life.

Can we allow ourselves to be **amazed**? Can we open our minds and hearts and let in the joyous news that what happens to Jesus happens to us? Can we believe it? Will we live it?

But the angel tells them, "Don't be **amazed!**" Get going.

He's heading to Galilee, the region where God among us began his annunciation of the reign of God breaking through into our time and space.

Get going. It's time to begin to live the way of life he articulated. **Don't be amazed. Be amazing.** Get going and build with God the **KINDOM** of

truth and trust,  
 justice and joy,  
 peace and prosperity,  
 hope and healing,  
 love and life.

All the readings tonight speak the story of our God, from the words of Genesis to Mark and his Gospel account of the moment that changed all of human history, the resurrection of Jesus.

Let's allow ourselves to be **amazed** by all this. And let's get moving. Let's be **amazing**. Let's live as disciples of Jesus.

When we see the equivalent of manhole covers flipping in the air like coins tossed by schoolchildren, let's realize that something awesome and magnificent is happening.

When we experience water sprinkled on our heads and our lives transformed for eternity, let's be **stunned and astonished**.

And then, let's allow the Holy Spirit to invigorate our lives and get us doing the deeds God needs done to make the reign of God real in our lives and in the lives of our contemporaries.

Deeds like those performed by Sister Valerie Heinonen and Sister Megan Rice. Sister Valerie manages Mercy Investment Services for the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. She buys shares in for-profit prison companies, not in hopes of making big bucks, but for leverage as owner to reform the for profit prison industry. Sister Megan and two other activists broke into a nuclear facility in Tennessee to bring attention to

the dangers of unimpeded nuclear proliferation AND to show how easy it was to get in. They practically had to call the guards themselves to get caught. Sister Megan, age 84, was sentenced to 35 months in prison, where she lives in conditions that wouldn't meet the requirements of the Geneva Conventions. She knew she'd go to prison, but believes it's up to people without children who have nothing to lose to take the risks others can't afford to take.

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Mary Magdalene, Mary, and Salome are responding to the horror of Jesus' murder.

They want to prayerfully anoint the body of the one they listened to and came to love, the one they had hoped would be the Messiah, before he became a victim of the death penalty.

They find an empty tomb and it begins to dawn on them the Lord of Life has risen, has overcome death. They begin to hear again what he taught them.

The Beatitudes and Matthew 25-----feed the hungry, visit those in prison --begin to **amaze** them.

And they realize it's time to get moving, to tell the world.

For us who have been given the gift of faith and have opened our minds and hearts to the radical realities of our Triune God, the world changes again this night. The dawn brings the power of the love of God, the God we experience

in the community of the church, in the Word and in the Eucharist.

Let's allow ourselves to be **amazed, to be amazing**. After all, we are Easter people, and our song is ALLELUIA. We are Easter people, and our song is

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