

7th impulse for Lent

Luke 24:1-12 Gospel of the Easter Vigil

Early on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb with the fragrant ointments they had prepared. Then they saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb; they went in, but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

And it happened, while they were perplexed about this, behold, two men came to them in shining garments. The men said to them: Jesus is risen. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee: the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and rise again on the third day.

Then they remembered his words. And they returned from the tomb and reported all this to the apostles. But the apostles thought these words were gossip and did not believe them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. He bent down but only saw the linen bandages. Then he went home, full of amazement at what had happened.

Without hope, in deep sorrow and despair, the women will have gone to Jesus' tomb after his death. Then the shock! The tomb is open, the body has disappeared! And in this situation they have an encounter with two men who point out to them what Jesus said during his lifetime: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and rise again on the third day.'

And the women remember this! The journey from the tomb back to the apostles must have been full of hope, full of joy, also full of 'We can't believe it!'. Maybe that's why the apostles don't believe it. Perhaps they are simply children of their time and don't take women seriously. None of them seem to remember Jesus' words. Only Peter perhaps thinks: Could it really be true? Could Jesus really have risen from the dead? And he goes to the empty tomb and marvels.

This is what Christians celebrate at Easter: the amazement at Jesus' resurrection from the dead and the hope that we too have eternal life!

I wish you this amazement, this joy and hope.

Yours, Barbara Scheck
(Pastoral counsellor and hospital chaplain)