

Homily Easter Sunday Year B 2024

The risen Lord is a Lord full of surprises. He surprised the women on that first Easter morning. As the women went to visit the tomb and tend to the body of Jesus, there was an obstacle in their way, the large stone that had been rolled against the entrance of Jesus' tomb. They even asked each other anxiously, *'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?'* It was a perfectly understandable concern. Yet they found that what they were worried about had been taken care of on their arrival, because when they arrived at the tomb, the stone had already been rolled back.

As we engage in our care and service of others in response to the risen Lord's call to love one another as he has loved us, we often come face to face with what seem like insurmountable obstacles. As a result, we delay becoming involved or engaged because we see some 'unsurmountable obstacle' that needs to be taken care of first. We find ourselves asking the question, *'Who will roll away this obstacle/stone for me?'* Easter Sunday answers the question: the stone will be taken care of for us as long as we keep running towards Jesus.

Macrina Wiederkehr osb offers two reflections.

"On Rolling Stones Away"

Where are my stones?

What are their names?

Would I know them if I met them face to face?

And if the empty tomb I stood in front of was me,
would I call it death?

Or would I call it resurrection?

My heart beats out the answer much clearer than I live it.

O, happy emptiness! It's what I need a lot of to be full.

Rolling stones is what it's all about but Resurrection is another name.

Be patient with each other's stones (Eph. 4:1-3).

Jesus was gentle with Thomas' stone (John 20:24-29).

Peter had to roll away some stones in his life too (John 13:6-11).

The call continues.

We are called to help others experience Resurrection, to help them break out of their tombs.

Of course, that means we'll have to break out of our own tombs first.

We'd look kind of silly preaching from the inside of our tombs, wouldn't we?

"On Letting Easter In."

When dawn stands still with wonder,

when birds sing joyfully in the trees,

when buds hurry into blossoms

and grass starts wearing green,

I always know that Easter wants to come again.

But deeper yet and richer still,

when Jesus, imprisoned in me,

asks me to roll away the stone that locks me in

- then – Easter wants to come again.

So, let it come!

It's one dawn past rising time

and Resurrection is the wildest news that's ever touched this crazy, mixed-up world.

It says, yes!

when everything else say, no!

It says, up!
when everything else says, down!
It says, live!
when everything else says, die!
Easter's standing at your door again,
so don't you see that stone has got to go?
that stone of fear, of selfishness and pride, of greed and blindness
and all the other stones we use to keep Jesus in the tomb.
So, here's to rolling stones away
to give our Lord the chance He needs
to rise and touch a troubled, lonely world.
Some call it Resurrection.
It's wild with wonder,
it's beautiful and real,
intent on throwing life around, it touches and it heals!
Yes, Easter, you can come;
an angel of life I'll be.
I'll roll the stone away
and set you free.
A very happy and blessed Easter to you all!!