

Lent 2010

Lenten Meditation # 9 - Easter

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LENTEN GARDENS “THE GARDEN OF RESURRECTION”

Shall we bask in the beauty of the garden, where Jesus rose from the dead? Shall we recall the wonder of the empty tomb, where women were told of Jesus that "He is not here, for he is risen"? At first, the disciples answered, "No!" They considered the women's report to be "an idle tale and they did not believe them" (Luke 24: 11). But later they saw Jesus for themselves and accepted the fact that something wonderful had happened.

How can we make the story come real for ourselves today? Many of us subscribe to the advice that, "If it seems too good to be true, it probably isn't." How do we get out of our skepticism? Can we truly believe that Jesus lives among us?

Many years after the events in the resurrection garden, the apostle Paul dealt with these questions in a very practical letter to people in the Church at Corinth (See I Cor. 15). He said, "Someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?'" Obviously, Paul is talking about resurrection in a broader sense, referring to the "rising again" of all believers. He says, "It is sown a physical (natural) body; it is raised a spiritual body." The resurrected Jesus was different from the one his followers had known before. Despite the physical signs, like his invitation to Thomas to touch his wounds, Jesus seemed able to appear and vanish at will.

The fact of the matter is that the resurrected Christ, who calls us to be his followers, is alive with us in remarkable ways. Sown a natural body, he, too, is a spiritual body and he relates to our spirits, our inmost selves. We do not need to go somewhere to find him. While he seems particularly present in times of worship and especially in Holy Communion, he comes to us in our private prayers. He works with us in our daily tasks, whether at an office, a factory or in our own homes. Jesus lives in the gardens of our lives, enabling us to experience beauty and to bear fruit in creative living.

