Today is a day of *amazement*. As Christians, Easter is the day for us to be renewed in our *amazement* once again by the miracle of the resurrection. As I mentioned last weekend, this has been *the week that has changed the world forever*. Through our Lord’s passion, death and resurrection, sin has been conquered, death has been defeated, and our hope has been restored.

And today I want you to give yourself permission to be *amazed*. The resurrection of Christ has become such a familiar thing for us that it’s easy to gloss over it, and to forget how incredible this is. Jesus, who died on the cross and was laid in the tomb for 3 days, rose again! This event is what our entire faith has been built upon – the ultimate miracle of the resurrection is a big deal!

And today we should put ourselves in the shoes of the original witnesses, and be *amazed* with them. That first Easter morning, none of them understood what happened. They were in mourning, and upon finding the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene automatically assumed that grave robbers had stolen the body. The disciples ran to see the empty tomb, but it says upon witnessing that the body was gone, they simply ‘went home’ – paralyzed by fear, and paralyzed for not knowing what to do.

But everything soon begins to come together – it was ‘early in the morning’ when Mary Magdalene discovered the empty tomb – the sun is rising on a *new day*, and a *new reality* as Jesus has shed his light into the darkness. The stone has been rolled away – this symbolic barrier between life and death has been removed, and the burial cloths have been left behind, because Jesus shows us that there is no need to cling to any earthly thing. The grave robber *has* been at work, but the grave robber turns out to be Almighty God who now effectively robs death of its sting with the raising of Jesus Christ.

And so amazing is this event to Mary Magdalene, the first witness, that she does not even recognize Jesus in his resurrected and glorified body when he approaches – believing him to be the gardener, she angrily demands that he tell her at once what he has done with the body. But as Jesus makes himself known to Mary, *the amazement begins*.

And as we share today in Mary Magdalene’s amazement, we should continually live in amazement every time we encounter our Lord. When we encounter him in others; through the Word of God; through our prayers and the prayers at Mass; through the Sacraments, and most profoundly, through the most Holy Eucharist, we should be in *perpetual amazement*. We should be in perpetual amazement that the Lord of all the universe loved us so much that he became one of us; that he went to the cross to die for our sins, and in the most remarkable of all miracles, rose from the dead to prove to us that he indeed was who he said he was, and that is only through him that we find the road to eternal life – by way of his promises and teachings, and of course, his death and resurrection.

And that is why it is so important to continually nurture our relationship with Christ – we nurture our relationship with him so that we can continually get to know him, so that we can get to recognize him and his actions, and to allow him to *amaze* us over and over again, every day of our lives.

With Easter Sunday and the renewing of our baptismal promises as sons and daughters of God the Father, we the Church now celebrate the Resurrection over the next 50 days – a 50 day period of time where we can turn our Lenten penances into Easter celebrations! And during this Easter season, let’s take the time to celebrate this world-changing event, taking time each day to reflect on this greatest mystery of our faith, and yes, to allow ourselves to be renewed and amazed, over and over again. Today – and every Sunday when we gather to bear witness to the empty tomb - we say joyfully with Mary Magdalene “*I have seen the Lord*”, and indeed, *I was amazed!*