**Homily for Easter Sund****ay***Rev. Francis D. Kim*

 A Sunday school teacher asked her children, “Why is it necessary to be quiet in church during the Mass?” One little girl raised her hand and replied, “Because people are sleeping.”

 Happy Easter, everyone!

 On that first Easter morning, something happened that had never happened before in the history of human race, and would never happen again. Someone came back from the dead, and will never die again.

 On Sunday morning, the women who had stood with Jesus when He died on the Cross on Good Friday went to the tomb to pay their last tribute to the dead body. The disciples thought that everything had finished in tragedy. None of Jesus’ followers were expecting to see an empty tomb. But, they heard the angel’s message, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”

 They saw, and they believed. They had been running for us and for the world. These witnesses who followed Christ, got up early in the morning before the dawn, went to the tomb, felt fear to see the empty tomb, ran to get others, and ran back to proclaim, “Christ is risen! Christ is alive!”

 This is exactly how history began becoming the Good News. They saw, they believed, and they left the tomb, and began the Resurrection in their lives.

 Jesus Christ rose from the dead. The tomb was empty. This is Easter. It was not only what they saw, but what they had was great hope. That makes this day glorious to us. The whole world is now different because of this event.

 What is so exciting about Easter is that because Christ is risen, the Resurrection can happen in our lives right here and now. You know? The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to all of us now.

 We are celebrating not only the Resurrection of Christ two thousand years ago, but having the Risen Lord today and here in our community and in our lives.The Resurrection of Jesus shows us that salvation is not a dream but a reality. The Resurrection teaches us that beyond darkness there is light, beyond death there is life, and beyond sin there is forgiveness. It gives us new hope and new life.

 This good news was not easy for the disciples to grasp because their hearts were still weighed down with grief and doubt. We also may be in the dark about how the Resurrection took place. We may still spiritually stay in the dark tomb with doubt.

 The tomb is empty! The empty tomb is the first sign of the Resurrection! The tomb means death, sins, and darkness. But, the tomb is empty now. In the mystery of the Resurrection, there is no more death, no more sins, no more darkness because the tomb is empty.

 But, to make empty tomb, the stone has to be rolled away. This is the second sign of the Resurrection. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, and she noticed the stone having been rolled aside. Tomb was a cave, and a stone laid across it. It would have taken several people to move such a stone.

 To make empty tomb, to believe the Resurrection, the stone must be rolled away. The stone must be rolled away from our hearts, then the Resurrection will take place in our lives.

 And, the burial cloths that had covered the body of Jesus was untied and rolled up in a separate place. The burial cloth is like something that entangles our body and soul. It is like shackles to make us slaves of sin and death. These shackles of sin and death weigh us down and hold us tight.

 Now, in the Resurrection, we are free from all the entanglements that trap us, that hold us back. Now, we are saved.

 The angel’s message is really true. “He is not here in the tomb. He is risen.” So, let die within us all that is sinful, all that is evil, all that is opposed to His love, all that is afraid.

 The tomb is empty, now. So, we can fill our hope, our joy, our happiness in the empty tomb. It is the Resurrection.

 Jesus says, “I have come to give you peace. I will be with you always.” This is our Lord. In our prayer, with problems of life, in our day-to-day routine with our family, Risen Christ is always with us. It is a great hope, and it is a new life.

 Every God’s promise to us will be fulfilled.

 Happy Easter!