

COLORFUL SCRIPTURE

March 31, 2024

Easter Miracle Brings Forth New Life

Based on Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

By Marianne Couture

Remember the story of “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle? The caterpillar popped out of the egg, looked for food and ate and ate until it became a full-size caterpillar. It built a protective shell, or chrysalis, around itself and huddled inside for more than two weeks. When the chrysalis broke open, it pushed its way out. Behold – it was no longer a caterpillar but a beautiful butterfly – new life.

The caterpillar stage, lasting two to four weeks, is the second or larval stage in the life of a butterfly.

A caterpillar spends most of its time eating and growing. Once it reaches full-size, it forms the chrysalis, which usually hangs on a tree, settles into it and goes to sleep.

The chrysalis is the third stage in the butterfly life cycle. While it’s asleep, an amazing change happens. The worm-like caterpillar becomes a delicate butterfly. The chrysalis breaks open and the butterfly emerges.

From a slow-moving crawling caterpillar, it becomes a quick-darting, fluttering butterfly that can now do things it couldn’t do as a caterpillar – new life.

The Easter miracle is like that. Jesus was buried in the tomb.

In John’s Gospel, Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb on Easter morning and runs to tell Peter and John. They run back to the tomb. John gets there first but waits for Peter. The tomb is empty except for the burial cloths.

John, the beloved apostle, was the first to believe in Jesus’ Resurrection, and he was the only apostle who stood at the cross when Jesus was crucified. Jesus entrusted the care of his mother, Mary, to John.

Somewhat like the caterpillar, Jesus died and was buried in the dark tomb before rising to new life.

Spring brings new life and light. Nature blooms with foliage and flowers. Daylight saving time gives us more daylight. In church on Easter Sunday, notice all the fresh flowers. Look for the special candle called the “Paschal Candle” lit near the altar during the Easter season. It symbolizes Jesus as the Light of the World who rose in glory and conquered the darkness of sin and death to save us. From death to Resurrection, Jesus brought new life.

Easter is joyous because Jesus triumphed over death. Jesus is alive and with us always. Alleluia! “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”

A Blessed Easter!

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