



easter



lectionary
reading

Cycle A

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Lectionary # 42

Reading I: Acts 10: 34A, 37-43

The Acts of the Apostles is seen as a continuation of the Gospel ascribed to the Lucan Community and as an account of the early history of the Church. In this particular section of Luke/Acts, Peter is addressing the household of Cornelius. It is a basic catechesis for those beginning their journey of faith. The tenor of the instruction is the rationale for why one should have **hope** and **confidence** in Jesus. Saint Peter speaks of the great manifestations of God's love through the exquisite works of Jesus Christ in his many wonders, exorcisms, and healings. Saint Peter, along with the other apostles were witnesses to these things and now call others to the **hope** and **confidence** that they too may have in this Jesus.

Reading 2: Colossians 3:1-4

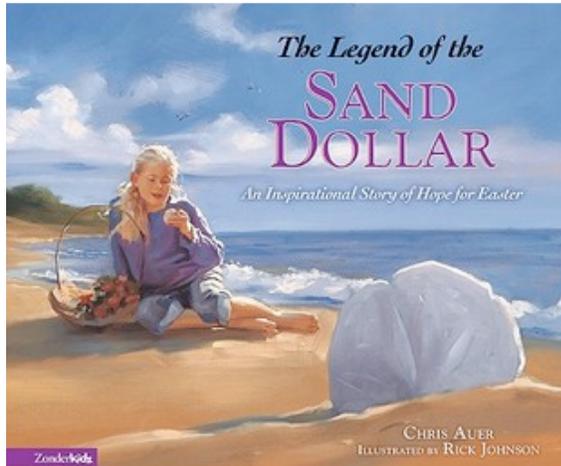
Here again, **hope** on the part of believers is bolstered by Saint Paul's words to the Church at Colossae. This **confidence** is rooted in the fact that we have been baptized into Christ and thus into his death and into his resurrection. Easter reminds us not only to have **confidence** in the resurrection, but also that as believers we must never take that reality for granted. Faith is not magic. It always requires us to respond to God's gracious initiation. We are called to live out life in *seeking what is above*. In other words, to put sinful ways behind and embrace the risen life we've begun to live, even if only partially, here in this life. This becomes our **hope**.

Gospel: John 20: 1-9

In this account of the resurrection we experience only the *empty tomb*, no angelic proclamation, no encounter with the risen Lord speaking to Mary of Magdela--just and *empty tomb*. The empty tomb became the earliest symbol of the resurrection in the fledgling church. Mary, out of her confusion, runs to the disciples to share that the stone was rolled away and that tomb was empty. Peter and John rush to the sight and John, upon seeing the burial garments neatly wrapped, is **confident** that Jesus was indeed risen from the dead. John saw and believed even in the midst of *not understanding* completely. **Hope** then, is an essential part of the process of coming to faith. Indeed these three virtues; faith, **hope**, and love are absolutely intertwined.



children's
story



The Legend of the Sand Dollar

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character
education
activity

**Faith is confidence in what we
HOPE for and assurance
about what we do not see.**

The Legend of the Sand Dollar

The Legend of the Sand Dollar tells a story of **hope** and consolation. It serves as another opportunity to illustrate to children that the Catholic faith is immersed in signs and symbols. The story involves two sisters, Margaret, age 15 and Kerry, age 8. They are on a visit to their aunt's home in the tidewater area of the southern coast of the United States. The two were actually sent away to visit their aunt as a result of their parents not getting along and spending a great deal of time arguing and fighting. While on their visit, Kerry encounters a young boy by the name of Jack who helps her understand Easter and her life's situation in light of a sand dollar she has found. The story of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection as reflected in the sand dollar serves as a parallel to the pain Kerry is experiencing. Jack helps Kerry to understand that with God's help she can **hope** for a better future.

Activity

Step One: Using a search engine find a copy of the Legend of the Sand Dollar. Provide copies of the legend on card stock so that students can use it as a bookmark. Also provide the students either individually or in small groups an actual sand dollar.

Step Two: Direct the students to look at the sand dollar as the legend is read aloud. The students will see, with your direction, the Easter lily on one side, the Christmas Poinsettia on the other and the five holes, one for each of the wounds in Jesus hands and feet and the fifth hole being the wound made from the sword stuck into the side of Jesus. Assist the students as they break the the sand dollar open in the very center and what looks like five doves awaiting to spread goodwill and peace emerge.

Step Three: on the computer access www.first-school.ws/theme/animals/ocean/sand_dollar.htm. The category of "CRAFTS" will appear on a chart. Select Activity 2: "Decorating, coloring, and scissor cutting a sand dollar." There will be a printable version of a sand dollar that students can color and decorate to make uniquely their own.

HOPE is one of the three theological virtues of the Christian religion with **FAITH** and **LOVE** being the others. These three virtues designate the essence of Christianity.



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

With the help of your family make a list of the names of those family members and close friends who have gone to God. Assemble a collection of pictures of the people listed and put together an album of remembrance. In the front of the album paste a picture of a sand dollar and the legend of the sand dollar. You may use stickers of sand dollars to hold the pictures in place to remind you and all that see the pictures of the hope of the resurrection. You may wish to bring this album out on various occasions such as All Saints and All Soul's Day, as well as Easter to remind yourself that these individuals live a new life with God. It can serve as a reminder that all of us are offered everlasting life in Jesus Christ.

Look Feel Know Act

Look and see how creation and nature reflects life, death and resurrection in a specific and repeated rhythm. Especially look at the seasons as they reflect new life in spring, the fullness and fruitfulness of life in summer, the beginning of what seems a dying process in the autumn and ultimately what looks to be the bleakness and dormancy of death in the winter. Living through the seasons several times you have seen that there is a pattern in nature and that nature reflects a reality that death is never the end but the process of a new beginning. Trust and believe in the necessity and beauty of each season, knowing, trusting and believing that ultimately the final transition in life is to a new and unending life. That is our HOPE and it will not disappoint.

The Legend of the Sand Dollar allows a child to enter into the beginning of an understanding of the Paschal Mystery, that is, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The story provides an opportunity for a child, with the assistance of a faith-filled adult, to know that in life, there are disappointments that can seem like “little deaths” and yet know that **hope** moves us beyond these “little deaths” to “little resurrections.”



**closing
tool**

Pray that you will always ask God’s assistance in seeing each challenge or difficult situation with an openness to see beyond the situation. Trust that God will be with you in every moment and that God will always see to your greatest good no matter what. Amen.



**Santa Clara
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