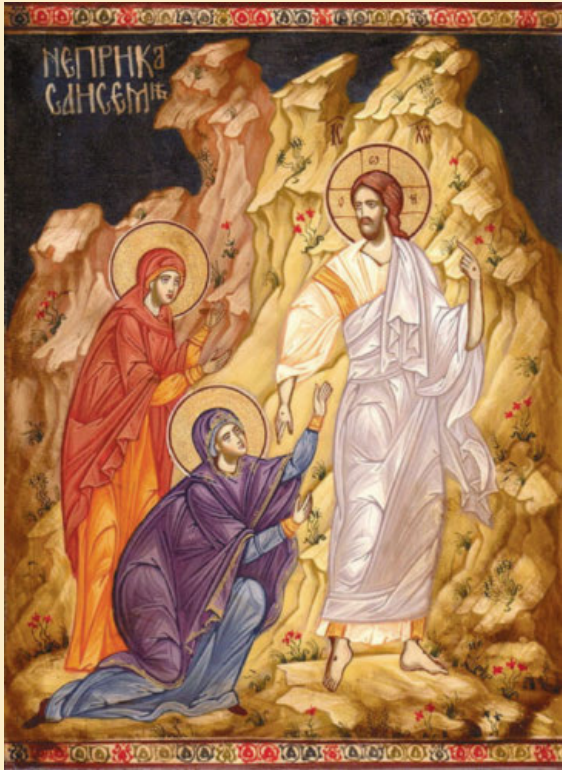


# Happy Easter!

Did you ever think about what was in Jesus' mind as he faced his passion and death? If he was truly human, we can assume he would have foregone any foreknowledge of what would happen to him. He must have been scared to death.



The Passion narrative says “his sweat became as blood.” (Luke 22:44). This doesn't sound like someone who was expecting a resurrection. If Jesus was truly human, the agony of the cross was not just physical pain. Jesus felt abandoned, outraged, angry and at the same time, pity and compassion. It must have been all He could do to keep his emotions in check.

I like to think that if this is true, when the Father raised Jesus from the dead, one of His first thoughts was, “*By God, it worked!*” Ultimately, it was His faith that carried him through the ordeal, not some understanding that the passion would end soon and He would carry on. I expect Jesus felt terrific when he rose on Easter morning. Life had returned, but not just any life—resurrected life.

Jesus' passion, death and resurrection is the pattern for our own crossing of the boundaries of mortal life. We rejoice in his resurrection because it is the trajectory of our own lives of faith. His resurrection tells us that the suffering, disappointments, trials as well as the joys, loves and exhilaration of our lives have meaning. Like Jesus' mortal life, our lives are a preparation for the life with the saints to come. Easter puts our lives into glorious perspective.

Happy Easter! We rejoice in the resurrection of our Savior because it is the beginning of our being taken up into God's love.