In our time, seven days have passed since we celebrated Christ’s rising. But in the Church’s reckoning, it is still Easter. We may have gotten on with our earthly lives, but our spiritual calendar (and reality) remains steeped in awe, wonder, and gratitude that God incarnate walked among us and gave his life for us. The readings of the Easter Octave offer a taste of what it is like to live in God’s time—in his presence and kingdom—as he calms our fears, strengthens our faith, and fills us with the Spirit. Much happens after Mary Magdalene visits and leaves the tomb. Other women who come to anoint Jesus meet him, embrace him, and obey his command to spread the Good News. Mary herself obeyed and ran to tell the apostles—though she mistook the Lord for a gardener until he spoke her name. Two disciples on the road out of town listen to Jesus’ teaching and finally know him in the breaking of bread. Jesus eats with others and assures them of the Father’s promise. There is another miraculous catch of fish and a breakfast with the disciples on the Sea of Galilee.

Within the scriptural context of this weeklong feast, we realize that the risen Christ is everywhere, with all of us, and existing throughout and beyond time. He appears when we least expect him; he is our teacher and our master; he feeds us with heavenly food; and he is there when we break bread together. May this knowledge strengthen our faith that Christ lives and will in time carry us home.

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A Word From Pope Francis

“We may be masters of the moment, but there is only one Sovereign over time: Jesus Christ....The Christian is able to move on the road of the moment, with prayer and discernment. But he hopes in the Lord as he awaits the end of time.”

—Morning meditation, November 26, 2013