

## For Reflection

# Joy Comes in the Morning

### Readings

"Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to *dawn*, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb" (Matt. 28:1).

"*Very early in the morning*, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb *when the sun had risen*" (Mark 16:2)

"Now on the first day of the week, *very early in the morning*, they and certain other women with them, came to the tomb" (Luke 24:1).

"On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb *early, while it was still dark*, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb" (John 20:1).

### Night

When the Lord was born, the shepherds learned of His coming while watching their flocks by night. The wise men followed the Star at night to find the Lord. The Lord came when the world was in state of darkness. When He died on the cross it was night. It was also night when soldiers took the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane. Why was it night at those times? The people who hated the Lord were in a state of spiritual darkness. And the Lord's followers were confused.

### Dawn of a New Day

The Lord rose on Easter morning. And as He rose on the third day, the light dawned. Why does the Easter story emphasize the time of day that the Lord rose? What does morning symbolize?

Morning pictures the coming and presence of the Lord. Dawn promises the coming of the Lord, and the sunrise symbolizes His actual arrival or presence (see *Arcana Coelestia* 2441). Morning also symbolizes these gifts from the Lord: peace, innocence, love, and joy. This is why the Lord rose on Easter morning. This is why morning time can give us a sense of hope for the new day.

### For Reflection

- Night pictures times when we are focused on ourselves rather than the Lord.
- The black darkness illustrates the lack of love and truth in our lives—a state of obscurity.
- Morning pictures times when we invite the Lord into our lives.
- The peace of heaven is compared to the dawn that breaks in the early morning and the new life in springtime. "The dawn and the spring cause everything that reaches the senses at those times to be full of joy and gladness" (*Arcana Coelestia* 1726).