

EASTER SUNDAY

When Mindy Losen realized that her father and son had been shot to death at the Jewish Community Center in Overland Park this week, she said, "I felt a lot of comfort. I felt God immediately." She said, "I knew that my Dad was in heaven." When she spoke about losing her talented son, she said, "We were very blessed" to have him for fourteen years. She wants something good to come from this tragedy. "We don't know what that's going to be," she said, "So we want people to let us know."

Already much good has happened. Mindy's strong faith has inspired many people. In spite of her loss, she lightens the loss of others. One week ago, she never dreamed Easter Sunday would look like this.

Mary Magdalene probably felt the same way. Jesus had marched triumphant into Jerusalem. One week later, she was weeping at his tomb. She told two disciples, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." They ran to the tomb and discovered the same truth. It was empty. They did not understand that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

We too sometimes wonder where Jesus has gone. We expected him to protect our family, but now someone is in danger. We expected him to heal our wounds, but our health is no better. We expected him to find us a job, a spouse, a home, income, a phone call, a car, a friend, a child. But he was not there. He was not where we thought he was supposed to be. We've all felt anger, loss and disappointment at the strange result of our good prayers. We went to the tomb, but Jesus was gone.

We look for him where we hope he will stay, where he wouldn't do something different. But he won't be there. He won't stay in a tomb. He will rise with new ideas, new horizons, and new destinations where we may not be ready to go. The resurrection is good news only for those who are willing to go with Christ into a new promised land.

Will Corporan, the son and uncle of the shooting victims, said "It takes no character to do what was done.... All it takes is an idiot with a gun." He's right. I wonder how many homes with guns also have idiots who live there. On this Easter Sunday, where are you looking for salvation? Do you have hate in your heart? Do you think that will make you righteous? Do you make friends with sinners? Do you find comfort in their company? Do you have a gun in your home? Do you think it will never kill an innocent person? My brothers and sisters, hate, sin, and violence - these are empty tombs. You won't find Jesus there. If you want to celebrate Easter, stop making friends with people who hate, stop making violence a solution to your problems, and turn in your guns.