

Easter Sunday: Readings Acts 10:34a, 37-43, Col 3:1-4 & John 20:1-9

Theme: "The Lord is truly risen, alleluia. To him be glory and power for all the ages of eternity, alleluia."

My theme for this Easter Sunday is "The Lord is truly risen, alleluia. To him be glory and power for all the ages of eternity, alleluia," which is the entrance antiphon for today's Easter Sunday Mass. This entrance antiphon reminds us of the Solemnity of Easter that we celebrate today. Easter is the greatest day in the Church's calendar. On this day, our Lord Jesus broke the chains of death and rose in triumph from the grave. His death is truly not a defeat but a great victory for us all. St. Paul says it so well: "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain." (1Cor 15:13-14) It is our fervent faith and prayer that one day, Jesus Christ, through his mercy and love, will raise our mortal bodies to be with him in heaven. Oh, what a great and beautiful day that will be for us, to see Him and all our loved ones who had preceded us in death!

This explains why St. Paul, in the second reading, asked us all to "think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory." Yes, through our baptism into Christ, we died with him, and if we continue to hold our faith in him, he will raise our mortal bodies to be with him in heaven. We're heaven-bound people, not earth-bound people.

In the first reading, we heard an inspiring homily St. Peter delivered to Cornelius and his household. In his speech/homily to Cornelius and his household, a Gentile family. St. Luke, the author of the Acts of the Apostles, would like to communicate to us the important message of the early Christian Church, namely: The Lord's rejection, meaning they put him to death, God's vindication, that is, God raised him on the third day, and that the apostles witnessed Christ's event. He tells us Cornelius and his household and the future Christians, which we are, that Jesus Christ has commissioned them to preach to the entire world.

Like Peter and the early Christians who preached Jesus Christ, his life, death, and resurrection, I do believe Jesus Christ continues to ask each and every one of us to continue to preach his Gospel message to the entire world. Our world also needs to know, believe, and accept Jesus so that all of us will be saved by him, our Savior and Redeemer

This mandate to preach Jesus to the entire world is also re-echoed in the Gospel reading we have just heard. According to the Gospel of St. John, the discovery of the empty tomb was first made by a woman, Mary of Magdala. She ran to inform Peter. It is interesting to know that, in those days there were grave looters, so one understands the cause of her fear. John tells us that Peter and unnamed disciple came to the tomb and found it exactly as Mary of Magdala reported to them. We are told that this unnamed disciple saw it and believed it.

The view of some theologians and biblical scholars is that St. John intended that this unnamed disciple represents believing Christians in general. Every Christian is called to believe that Jesus, truly the Son of God is indeed truly risen. In our proclamation of the Mystery of Faith, we say or sing at every Mass: "We proclaim your Death, O Lord and profess your Resurrection until you come again" (Memorial Acclamation A).

As we celebrate this Easter Sunday, let us remember that the Easter Season, which is a fifty-day celebration, provides us with an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be baptized members of Christ's Body.

May we also remember that we can't celebrate Easter Sunday without first celebrating Good Friday.

At the end of the homily, we will light our candles and renew our baptismal promises that we are all for Jesus and his mission we're baptized into.

May our Holy Mother Mary and her beloved husband, St. Joseph, intercede for us to continue to proclaim by our words and deeds that Jesus Christ is truly risen, alleluia!

Wishing each and every one of you and your loved ones, a blessed and a grace-filled Easter.