

April 16, 2017 Easter Sunday

Bright angels attested that Jesus is risen!

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Colossians 3:1-4 or 1Cor 5:6b-8

John 20:1-9

Peter explains to a crowd what recently happened, namely that God anointed Jesus with power and the Holy Spirit. Jesus did good, healed all those who were oppressed by evil, was put to death and raised by God on the third day. The disciples were witnesses and commissioned to preach and testify to all of this. Everyone who believes in Jesus will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.

The Psalmist encourages everyone to give thanks to the Lord for he is good and his mercy is enduring. "I shall live," he says, "and declare the works of the Lord." The faithful one rejected by the many has become the cornerstone and this is a wonderful thing.

We are to seek what is above and think of what is above since the lives of those raised are now hidden with Christ in God. Let all clear out the old yeast of malice and wickedness and replace it with fresh unleavened dough of sincerity and truth. When Christ appears then we too will appear with him in glory.



Mary Magdala discovers the empty tomb and tells Peter and John of the situation. They return with her and Peter discovers the burial cloth. John saw and believed even though they did not yet understand the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

**The Father resurrected
the Son with power,
and the Holy Spirit.**

Easter is the life center of the Christian experience and the resurrection is a deep mystery that indicates there is a future for every human being. Christ ascended to the right hand of the Father and each of us is asked to raise our values so as to think and seek what is above. Be sincere, be truthful, and leave anger, selfishness, pettiness, resentment, and self-righteousness once and for all. A new life in Christ will bring you and your family joy and salvation! God exists: that is the real message of Easter.

*I am the one, says the Christ,
I am the one that destroyed death
And triumphed over the enemy.
Come then, all you families of peoples
Who are sunk in sins.
For I myself am your forgiveness,
I am the saving Paschal Victim.*

(Melito of Sardi, 2nd Century homily)

"Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness...and that is where death is. That is not the place to look for the One who is alive! Let the risen Christ enter your life, welcome him as friend, with trust: he is life! If up to now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. If you have been indifferent, take a risk: you won't be disappointed. If following him seems difficult, don't be afraid, trust him, be confident that he is close to you, he is with you, and he will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do." (Pope Francis)

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