

April 01, 2018

Easter Sunday

**Let us be glad and rejoice!**

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Psalms 118

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

John 20:1-9

Peter explains to a crowd what recently happened, namely that God appointed Jesus with power and the Holy Spirit and while he did good, healed many, he was put to death and raised by God on the third day. The disciples were then commissioned to preach and testify to all of this. Believe in Jesus and you receive forgiveness in 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.

We are to seek what is above, not that of the earth, and think of what is above since the lives of those raised are now hidden with Christ in God. Let all of us clear out the old yeast of malice and wickedness and replace it with fresh unleavened dough of sincerity and truth.

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 the disciples did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to die and then rise from the dead.

The Father appointed the Son with power,  
and the Holy Spirit.

Easter is the life center of the Christian experience and the resurrection is a deep mystery. 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 joy and salvation!

The day of the crucifixion and burial and the next few were difficult for the group of faithful distressed women who watched from a distance and also for the disciples and yet there was an unmistakable presence they all felt that eventually turned their despair into abiding confidence and enthusiasm. It was not only that they believed that Jesus was still in existence as they believed in the resurrection and life after death, but all the more so since Jesus appeared to them and filled them with the conviction that he was God's Messiah, fully empowered to lead them in the new Way. He assured them that all power had been given to him and he would continue to work with them in building up God's Kingdom. He even promised that they would soon receive the Holy Spirit, a sure signal to them that he was with the Father in the unseen world, that his gaze was always upon them, and he would be guiding them in getting the message of salvation to others.

Even today in these scriptures we encounter a redeeming inspiration through the Living Lord, Jesus Christ, to live a life seeking higher ways like those characterized by his life on earth. Our temperaments and ways of thinking differ one from another but the central feature of Jesus' way is the Love poured out by the Father through the Holy Spirit. What does Jesus say to us today?



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