

April 21, 2016 Easter Sunday

Bright angels attested that Jesus is risen!

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

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

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. Jesus did good, healed many, was put to death and raised by God on the third day. This is a summary of Christian teaching to the Gentiles. The disciples were witnesses and are commissioned to preach and testify to all of this. Everyone who believes in Jesus will receive forgiveness in his name as Jesus is the "judge of the living and the dead."

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 marvel to behold.

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 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 since her first thought was that someone moved Jesus' body. They return with her and Peter discovers the burial cloth, indicating it was discarded. John saw and believed even though they did not yet understand the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

The Father raised the Son,
The marvelous Cornerstone,
Testified to by 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. Jesus would soon make his presence unmistakably evident to the disciples and transform their despair into enthusiasm that abides with us to this day. The root of their enthusiasm will be that he assures them that all power is given to him and they believe with clarity that he is with the Father in the unseen spiritual world and his work will continue powerfully with them as they guide believers into the unfolding Kingdom. Following Jesus into his unseen world will bring us renewed inspiration and free us from the empty promises of this world and bring a higher purpose.



I AM

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)

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