



27 March 2016

EASTER SUNDAY

CHRIST, OUR HOPE, IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

A most Happy Easter to one and all!
The joy of the Resurrection fills our hearts and urges us to share it with all our brothers and sisters. Something wonderful has happened not only to Jesus but also to us: we have risen to a new life. Prepared by the Lenten season, we have left behind our moral miseries and weakness, and have come to share in the new life that Jesus offers to all those who make him Lord of their hearts.

Echoing today's Sequence, we gather to offer thankful praises to the Paschal Victim who is the Prince of Life and who reigns immortal over sin and death. He is the reason for our joy. He is the source of our peace and our determination to become better Christians.



Liturgical Note: On Easter Sunday, both the Penitential Rite and the Creed are omitted. They are replaced by the Renewal of the Baptismal Promises that takes place after the Homily.

INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia! You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia! Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia!

Greeting

P –Blessed be Jesus Christ who rose triumphantly from death. May his grace and peace be with you all!

All –And with your spirit!

Gloria

All –Glory to God in the

highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the Solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All –Amen!

LITURGY OF
THE WORD



1st Reading Acts 10:34.37-43

Jesus' resurrection is the essence of the "Good News" brought by Peter to Cornelius. On this truth depend our salvation and all that we believe about God's Incarnate Son.

R –A proclamation from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did, both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.

This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be seen, not by all the people, but by us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118

R —*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!*

R. M. Velez



* Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." **R.**

* The right hand of the Lord has struck with power; the right hand of the Lord is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. **R.**

* The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. **R.**

2nd Reading Col 3:1-4

Today St. Paul reminds us that the resurrection of Christ should be reflected in our behavior.

R –A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:
If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 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.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Sequence

C —*With the ancient poet, let us proclaim the joy of Mary Magdalene at Jesus' resurrection.*

All—Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer your thankful praises! A Lamb the sheep redeems: Christ, who only is sinless, reconciles sinners to the Father.

Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous: the Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.

Speak, Mary, declaring what you saw, wayfaring. "The tomb of Christ, who is living, the glory of Jesus' resurrection; bright angels attesting, the shroud and napkin resting. Yes, Christ my hope is arisen: to Galilee he goes before you."

Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining. Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning! Amen! Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation 1 Cor 5:7-8

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed; let us then feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:1-9

Coming to accept the reality of the Resurrection was a long process, as we learn from today's account of the discovery of the empty tomb. The absence of Jesus' body and the position of the wrappings in the tomb were the first signs that led John and Peter to believe.

P —The Lord be with you!
All—And with your spirit!

P —A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to John
All—Glory to you, O Lord!

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first. He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple, who had arrived at the tomb first, also went in. He saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

C –The Renewal of the Baptismal Promises replaces the Profession of Faith.

P –Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

P –Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

All–I do!

P –Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?

All–I do!

P –Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?

All–I do!

P –Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All–I do!

P –Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

All–I do!

P –Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All–I do!

P –And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

All–Amen!

(The priest sprinkles the people with holy water, while an appropriate hymn may be sung.)

Prayer of the Faithful

P –The resurrection of the Lord fills us with the sincere desire to live a new life, characterized by honesty, sincerity, purity, dedication and love. Let us ask the Lord that this may become a reality for all as we pray:

All–Lord, graciously hear us!

C –That the community of believers may bear witness to Christ’s resurrection through its example of a continuous conversion from sin, let us pray! *R.*

C –That the Holy Father, our Bishop and all our spiritual leaders may enjoy the consolation and peace that flow from Christ’s resurrection, let us pray! *R.*

C – That those who feel disheartened by the situations of violence, oppression and suffering may find in the Resurrection the courage they need to continue their quest for a better society, let us pray! *R.*

C –That all of us may receive the Easter blessing of a profound renewal of our moral values, socio-economic and political institutions, let us pray! *R.*

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. *(Pause)* Let us pray! *R.*

P –Lord God, may the splendor of Your Son’s resurrection always illumine our lives. And may our thoughts, words and actions bear witness to the new life You have given us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All–Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All–May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for

the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P –Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer the sacrifice by which your Church is wondrously reborn and nourished.

Through Christ our Lord.
All–Amen!

Preface of Easter I

P –The Lord be with you!

All–And with your spirit!

P –Lift up your hearts!

All–We lift them up to the Lord!

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All–It is right and just!

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day, above all, to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All–Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All–We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!

COMMUNION RITES



All–Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All–**For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All–Lamb of God . . .

Communion

P –Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All–Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia. Therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer after Communion

P –Look upon your Church, O God, with unfailing love and favor, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory of the resurrection,

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.

All–And with your spirit!

P –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing.
(Pause)

P –May almighty God bless you through today’s Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin.

All–Amen!

P –And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his

Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality.

All–Amen!

P –Now that the days of the Lord’s Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ’s help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

All–Amen!

P –And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All–Amen!

P –Go in peace.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

All–Thanks be to God!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE RESURRECTION: NEW LIFE FOR CHRIST, NEW LIFE FOR ALL

The Resurrection is, first of all, an event that concerns **Jesus Christ**. It is his personal triumph over death, and the vindication of the truth of his teaching. He had spoken about it before it happened. The fulfillment of that prophecy underscores the power of Christ and the truthfulness of his message. He **experienced his physical resurrection in all its transforming vitality, just as he had experienced the destructive power of sin in his agony and death**. This is what the “Paschal Mystery” is all about. The Resurrection reveals this with a glorious clarity perceived through the eyes of faith.

But whatever happened to Christ has also a cosmic resonance. It influences and affects positively the whole universe, but especially mankind. **At the Incarnation, the Son of God united himself in a permanent way to every human being with a solidarity that makes him share in all the miseries of every individual (including the deadly consequences of sin), and makes every human being a sharer in Christ’s dignity, holiness, and glory.**

This is why Jesus’ coming out of the tomb alive, transformed . . . concerns us, too. It concerns all human beings. **His Resurrection is also mankind’s resurrection because it marks mankind’s liberation from the oppression of sin.**

Christ’s shattering the shackles of death (manifested through the breaking of the seals of his grave) is like the cracking of the shell of a seed which allows the sprout to burst forth with all the freshness of the new life it carries. That sprout is Christ, but is also all mankind. It is also each one of us. On Easter morning **a new world dawned, a new humanity rose from the slavery of sin and death, in Jesus, through him and with him.** (See Col 2:12-13.)

No human expression can exhaust the transforming greatness of this mystery. The Church has been proclaiming it during her 20 centuries of existence through her liturgy, her creeds, and her life. She will continue to do so until the liberating power of the Resurrection will have reached its full manifestation in the Kingdom of heaven.

There are a billion and one reasons for celebrating, then, as we commemorate, re-live and rejoice in the Resurrection of Jesus. **It is our resurrection, too. But we are challenged to prove it by living a new life.** We have to get rid of the “old yeast” of corruption and wickedness, and live a life characterized by sincerity and truth. (See 1 Cor 5:7-8.) We have to set our hearts “on what pertains to higher realms” (Col 3:1). Then will our actions ring the joyous notes of the Easter alleluia, and we shall **become a living “proof” of Christ’s Resurrection.**



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