

EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS

- ★ We have reached the end of the long journey of Lent, Holy Week and Easter Triduum.
- ★ It is the great Solemnity of the Resurrection of Jesus.
- ★ For 50 days the Church will continue to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, his victory over death and sin.
- ★ This is certainly true of each Eucharistic Celebration, but more during the Easter Season.

READINGS

FIRST READING – *Acts 10,34. 37-43*

- Peter is now at Cornelius home, Cornelius is a gentile.
- In his dream Peter heard the voice telling him to kill and eat from some of those animals who were considered impure by the tradition of Israel. Peter does not understand why he has to eat impure meat. He does not want to eat, he refuses for three times. Then somebody knocks at the door where Peter is, they are the people Cornelius sent asking for Peter.
- Peter goes to Cornelius' and preaches about Jesus. He had preached that same sermon before, but to a Jewish audience, now it is gentile audience.
- He explains all that had happened in all over Judea about Jesus of Nazareth, beginning in Galilee. Galilee is home for Jesus and for his disciples, after his resurrection he will summon them to Galilee. We too need to return to the place of our first encounter with the Lord, it is not a physical returning to a given place, but a spiritual returning where we feel at home with the Lord.
- He goes on telling them how Jesus went about doing good, how had been anointed by the Spirit.
- He explains how he was condemned to die on the cross, but God raised him on the third day.
- Peter tells Cornelius and his household that whoever believes in Jesus will be granted the forgiveness of sins.
- This is the reason for the Incarnation, reconcile us with the Father forgiving our sins, which he takes on him. Jesus has come to give life to us revealing the Father, but we do not like that kind of God who is always loving, forgiving, welcoming; because he calls us to do the same.
- In this account about Cornelius we see the first fruits of the redemption among the gentiles.

Instead of the second Reading we will reflect this week on two gospels.

- The Gospel of Matthew about the resurrection which we read on the Easter Vigil,
- The Gospel of John which we read on Easter Sunday.

GOSPEL – *Matthew 28,1-10*

- In the passion narratives the three synoptic Gospels are very much alike
- However the resurrection passages present great differences.
- None of them has the intention to explain the resurrection, since it transcends our physical experience, what they do is to proclaim with enthusiasm the fact of the resurrection and they confirm it with several stories of apparitions of the Risen Lord.
- In all these apparitions we found the following elements:
 - The identification of the one who appears.
 - His identity with the historical Jesus. Showing a close connection between the death and the resurrection of Jesus.
 - He has a body
 - He is real

- His relationship with the disciples; and the personality of some of the witnesses.
- Matthew organizes the passage we will read at the Easter Vigil in three different moments:
 - The message of the angel to the women.
 - Jesus appears to the women.
 - The mission of the apostles
 - Let us see what is the message of Matthew:
 - The women go to see the tomb. When we read the Passion on Palm Sunday we left the three Marias seated in front of the tomb, now Matthew mentions only two.)
 - Matthews says that when the angel descends to the tomb and moves the rock that closes the cave, there is an earthquake, as he said when Jesus died on the cross. These are descriptions of Theophanies or Chritophanies.
 - The empty tomb
 - Two messages come out from this empty tomb:
 - The one from the women made messengers of the resurrection to the male disciples. There are sent by the angel and also by Jesus.
 - And the one from the guards who go to the high priests to inform them of what has happened.
 - The fact is that the tomb is empty, the explanations given by both groups are different.
 - What happened then about the resurrection of Christ, continues to happen nowadays.
 - The resurrection is a fact that cannot be verified, it has to be accepted in faith.
 - If faith is absent, then the resurrection becomes a fable.
 - But for us Christians the resurrection is the foundation of our faith, as Paul says in 1Co15,14.17.

GOSPEL – John 20,1-9

- Mary Magdalene is the first witness of the resurrection.
- She finds out that the stone has been moved away. John does not say that Mary enters into the tomb, but that she ran to inform Peter and the other disciple ... about the tomb.
- Her word is accepted and Peter with the other disciple start out their way to the tomb.
- The other disciple which the evangelist identifies as “the beloved disciple, o the disciple who was a dear friend of Jesus.”
 - This disciple arrives to the tomb before Peter
 - But he does not enter he waits for Peter who enters first.
 - When he can enter the author of the Gospel says that he “saw and believed.”
 - What did he see? The empty tomb.
 - What did he believe? The resurrection
 - Luis Alonso Schöekel, a Bible scholar, says that more than believe, what the Greek verb says is that he began to believe.
 - This belief is still very weak, it is the faith of a beginner, because it rests on the experience of empty tomb, not yet in the word of Jesus. Our faith has also grown from a very small concrete fact, but later little by little this faith has become adult and strong, there is no more need for concrete material or spiritual experiences, but it is based on faith alone.
 - The Gospel passage ends saying that they went home, their faith was too small for drive them to go and preach the good news.
- On the other hand the women of Matthews Gospel have a stronger faith since their reaction is to go and tell.

Let us share about these readings :

- Something that we like in the passage from Matthew
- Something we like in the passage from John
- What is the meaning of the resurrection for us.

SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
Offer your thankful praises!

A lamb the sheep redeems: Christ who only is sinless
Reconcile sinners to the Father.

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

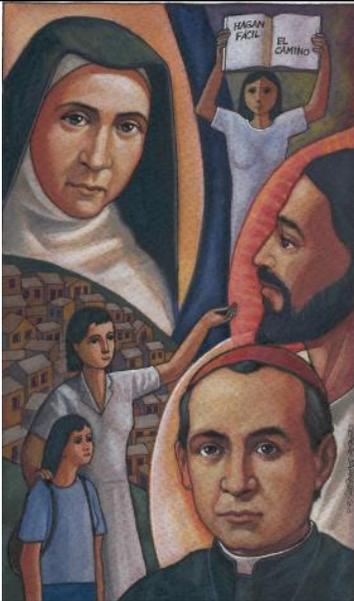
Speak Mary declaring what you saw wayfaring
"The tomb of Christ, who is living. The glory of Jesus'
resurrection,

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.

RINCÓN CLARETIANO



Dear daughters, love one another, as daughters of love that you are. Who have gathered you in this holy company, is it not love? My daughters, love your sisters...(María Antonia París – Foundress of the Claretian Missionary Sisters – First Constitutions in Writings p. 458)

My Lord, You are my love, my honor, mi hope, my refuge. You are my life, my glory, my purpose, my teacher, my Father, my love. (St. Anthony M. Claret – Founder of the Claretian Missionary Sisters)