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Easter Sunday

12 April 2020

Christ is risen!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let all of heaven and earth rejoice!
Alleluia!

Dear Parishioners,

Joy is what we feel when we at last attain something we have hoped for. And the greater is the thing for which we hope, the greater, too, is our joy.

Lent has been filled with hope, even in such difficult circumstances through which we are now living, for we have walked the path of our salvation again, reliving in memory and sacrament the saving act of our God: not an impersonal saving act, but a personal one. An act which brings to completion the moment of our natural birth by means of our rebirth through supernatural grace; it is for this reason we renew our baptismal vows during the Easter Vigil.

Whatever sadness there is in the fact that we cannot this year celebrate together our Easter joy, nevertheless our joy is still complete, for we are gathered together in spirit in the Mystical Body through the grace of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He gathers us together in his Sacred Heart and holds us there at his divine breast.

May you remain safe and joyful this Easter. An Easter which we certainly will not forget!

Below is my little Easter Homily, and after it the formula for the renewal of our baptismal vows used during the Easter Vigil. Why not make this renewal at Easter in your own home? You are in my prayers at this most sacred time of the Church's year.

God bless!

Fr. Philip Creurer

AN EASTER HOMILY

Mary Magdalen, and Mary the mother of James went to the tomb early the next morning, “And looking, they saw the stone rolled back. For it was very great.”

The tomb, says St. John was sealed.

In the sacred Triduum which we have just completed celebrating, the Passion, Death and Resurrection, form one movement, one action in three parts. Each is essential to our understanding of Jesus Christ, to our understanding of God and the Redemption and Salvation He has accomplished for us.

It was not sufficient that a *human* person suffer vicariously for the sins of men; it was necessary that a *divine* person, the Second Person of the Trinity, assume our fallen flesh, so that through His suffering and death on our behalf, we might be made to share in His Resurrection—His triumph over sin and its consequence, which is death: not just spiritual death, but physical death as well.

That is why the Gospels give so much detail about the tomb of our Lord. For if Jesus did not truly die, then he did not truly rise again. All would be just appearances, just so much smoke and mirrors.

But the stone that closed the tomb of our Lord was very great. It was very heavy. He could not have opened it himself when the guards were not looking and have escaped after awaking from a false death. His scourging was too thorough for strength enough to remain in Our Lord for such a thing, even if it were plausible. The tomb was sealed and a watch was kept. In fact, the guards fell asleep, and to avoid the punishment of death for their negligence (according to Roman Law), they were the first to broadcast a false story, that Jesus’s body was stolen. It was the first of many lies in the history of the enemies of Christ. They continue to this very day, and despite the authentic testimony of experts in archaeology, such stories still get wide airplay.

The reason for this is simple. Show that Christ did not die; show that he did not rise again on Easter, and you attack not just Christ, but all of Christianity. It was for this reason that the Gospels were so clear and precise. There was to be no mistake. As Saint Paul says, if Christ did not die and rise, then our Faith is vain (1 Cor 15:17).

But the fact of the matter is that Christ *did* die. He predicted his Passion, he predicted his death, and he predicted his Resurrection:

“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three day he will rise” (Mk10:33-34).

In fact, he did more than just predict them. He willed them. For we must never forget that Jesus Christ was not just a protagonist or antagonist to which things happened. He is God, a Divine Person, the Author of Life and of History. He is in some mysterious way the author too of his own Passion, Death and Resurrection. A perfect oblation in reparation for the sins of men.

And the goal of it all is what we celebrate today—his Resurrection; he rose from the dead by his own power. This too he willed. And more than that, he willed each of us to rise with him, if only we accept his saving action. No one but God could rise again in this way, since only God himself has the power to lay down his (earthly) life and to take it up again (Jn 10:17-18).

As we sang in the Sequence of the Mass:

*We know that Christ is risen, henceforth ever living:
Have mercy, victor King, pardon giving. Amen. Alleluia.”*

Fr. Philip Creurer

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS DURING THE EASTER VIGIL

Dear brethren, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:

V. Do you renounce Satan?

R. I do.

V. And all his works?

R. I do.

V. And all his empty show?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in God,
the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

R. I do.

V. 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?

R. I do.

V. 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?

R. I do.

V. 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.

R. Amen.