

HOMILY — EASTER 2020

Ac 10:34, 37-43

Ps 118 R/. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Col 3:1-4

Jn 20:1-18

Christ is risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!! (R/. Truly, He is risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!!)

What joy we celebrate this Easter morning, as we find ourselves in the light of the Risen Christ! *[Christ], who for a little while was made lower than the angels, [but is] now crowned with glory and honour because of [His] suffering of death* (Heb 2:9).

But it's not because He died that we believe in Christ! Our faith in Christ doesn't rest in His Death. No, our faith rests in His Resurrection! As St. Paul wrote, *If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins* (1 Cor 15:17). As Christians, our faith depends on the Resurrection of Jesus; that's why this is our most holy day of the year! Because, *in fact Christ has been raised from the dead* (1 Cor 15:20); God's steadfast love has endured! His mercy is stronger than our weakness, greater than our sins; and His love is more powerful than even death itself. Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Now, Christ's victory over sin and death has been shared with us in faith through Baptism, when we were baptised into His Death and Resurrection. As St. Paul wrote to the Romans, *we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his* (Rm 6:4-5).

So, Christ's Resurrection, my brothers and sisters, is also our resurrection! By rising from the dead, Jesus raised us up with Him so that we might share in His eternal life. That's why we can say that today is the day of our salvation. The risen Jesus has united us to Himself, and because of that, we're now able to be in communion with the Father. Alleluia, indeed!

That's why St. Paul urges us in the second reading this morning to *set [our] minds on things that are above not on things that are on earth, for [we] have died and [our] life is hidden with Christ in God* (Col 3:2-3). Because of the Resurrection, we now live in God. We can no longer live our lives as before, in sin and darkness; we have been redeemed! We must now live for God.

This, my brothers and sisters, is our hope and our joy! Christ Jesus has conquered sin and death and offers us a share in His victory. This morning the Church invites us to renew our baptismal promises. As we do so, may we recommit ourselves to Jesus and to walking in His ways; may we root ourselves in Him and constantly seek His grace, so that we, too, may truly come to share in the glory of His Resurrection. Amen.