

Easter Sunday
April 16, 2017

Scripture Readings

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

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

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-9

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

(Psalm 118)

Alleluia, Christ is risen! We just finished forty days of Lent. We prayed and fasted; we reflected and confessed; we carried our rock; we learned to stop resisting happiness. The suffering of the crucifixion is fresh in our minds. Our Lenten journey has ended for this year, but our spiritual journey has not. Christ is risen! Let us use all the lessons from the last forty days to fully enjoy the resurrection and continue our journey!

In the first reading, Peter reminds us that God anointed Jesus. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, **for God was with Him.** God was with us through our Lenten journey and we can be assured that He will be with us forever. Why else would God sacrifice His son? It was only three days ago that Peter denied he knew Jesus. God was with Peter nonetheless. Am I guilty of denying Jesus? I may not have spoken words of denial, rather, it may be something I did NOT say. But today I rejoice in His resurrection. Jesus died for me and He will forgive my denials. I hope I was transformed just as Peter was. I want to go about doing good. I want to be a witness to all. I *can* be transformed; I *can* be a witness because God is with me. *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!*

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us to think of what is above, not of what is on earth. We all know we cannot take our material possessions to heaven. But we want those possessions anyway. We will need nothing in heaven as we will be with our Father. Did I change over the past forty days? Am I focusing more on

God rather than my earthly possessions? I hope so! I strive to stand before Christ in all His glory. I *can* stand before Christ because God is with me. *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!*

In the Gospel, we hear the tomb was empty when Mary of Magdala arrived. Peter and the other disciple arrived to find it empty also. When they saw, they believed. I had to travel my journey through Lent. I had to suffer the crucifixion. I had to discover the empty tomb. Today, I remember why I journeyed through Lent and why I'm celebrating Easter. Jesus died and rose for me. For me! Our Lord is alive and with us! I remember my time on earth is only temporary. I will join my Father in heaven. My trust in the Lord will help me believe though I have not seen. I *can* trust and believe because God is with me. *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!*

Happy Easter!

Carol Gustafson