

## Second Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2019

### Rejoice and Be Glad – His Love is Everlasting

In the scripture readings this second Sunday of Easter there are three reasons to rejoice. The first is the message of His resurrection, His reassurance to us that He lives “forever and ever” (Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19). His resurrection and eternal life assures us that He will not leave us for any reason. He is waiting patiently for us to grab hold of His hand, to speak with Him, to listen to Him, to know Him, and to follow Him on the path to salvation.

The second is the message of Peace. In John’s Gospel (John 20: 19-31) three times when appearing to the disciples Jesus offers a greeting of “Peace be with you”, and again “Peace be with you”, and yet again “Peace be with you”. Jesus not only wants us to know His resurrection and his life eternal, that makes Him available to us always; he offers us peace. He reassures us that He comes in peace, He wants us to be at peace.

Achieving peace in this life requires a little effort on our part. It requires a conscious effort to be in touch with Jesus and be in conversation with Him. Remembering to turn to Jesus in all of our circumstances can be difficult. In the midst of our frustrations, disappointments or anger and the chatter and clutter of life it is sometimes difficult to remember that He is there for us. We should start the conversation even if it is to communicate how upset we are. He will listen with his whole heart, knowing how much we are suffering or hurting. He will love that we are sharing our joys, our concerns, our disappointments with Him and asking for His guidance, or forgiveness, or thanking Him for the graces we receive daily. He will love us even if we turn to Him in anger. When we express our thoughts, wants, desires and frustrations to Jesus we release our need to control our lives and place ourselves in his hands and the result is the kind of peace that only Jesus can provide. The peace that comes from handing our lives over to Jesus provides us with the strength and courage to face our most difficult times.

The third message is to Believe. Believe in the resurrection; believe that Jesus died for our sins and to save us so that we might spend eternity in heaven with Him. Believe that he wants peace and salvation for us, believe that he is with us always and believe that He loves us unconditionally.

On this second Sunday of Easter we have many reasons to rejoice and be glad. Peace be with you and believe.

Pat Kornfeld