



## HOMILY FOR EASTER SUNDAY, YEAR C.

ACTS 10:34a, 37-43, PSALM 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23,  
COLOSSIANS 3:1-4, JOHN 20:1-9.



LIVE EACH DAY WITH A FOCUS ON WHAT IS ABOVE.

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, we rejoice in the Lord's resurrection, His victory over death. This is the greatest of all Sundays. Remember, on Good Friday, we commemorated the death of Jesus, the death that brought a temporary victory for evil and darkness and left the world in total silence. However, today, the announcement of the two men (the angels), "...He is not here, He is risen" (Luke 24, 5), calls us to rejoice and be glad because of our savior's glorious resurrection. This means that Jesus is back in a new and glorious body, and He will never die again. St. Paul testifies to this reality; thus, "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; dead no longer has dominion over Him" (Romans 6:9).

In His resurrection, Jesus came back to life and became the source of eternal life for others, especially those who believe in and call upon His name. "For if we died with Christ, we believe we will also live with Him" (Romans 6:8).

Beloved friends, I keep on wondering, for without Easter, we would likely never have heard of Jesus. His small group of followers would have drifted apart if He had not risen. Only the resurrection, along with the sending of the Holy Spirit, gave His followers the courage and purpose to talk about Him, for He has become their source of life. Though we cannot prove the resurrection scientifically, it is a matter of faith. As a doctrine of faith, it is not something someone just dreamed up one day. There is a solid foundation for our belief in the resurrection of Jesus. What is the foundation? We have an empty tomb that believers have venerated from the Church's earliest days.



Another strong evidence is the witnessing of Jesus' disciples to the resurrection. They were not a gullible bunch expecting the resurrection or looking for it to happen. We have the story of the women who went to anoint His body thinking that He would remain there, the apostles who first heard the news of the resurrection from the women but couldn't believe, and the story of the doubting Thomas, which we will hear next week, that illustrates it. The appearance of Jesus to the Apostles convinced them that Jesus truly had risen. The resurrection of Jesus was not something they believed in as we must believe in it - it was something they had seen for themselves. They witnessed it.

This indicates what happened to the apostles for standing by their story that Jesus had risen and had appeared to them many times. They had nothing to gain in a worldly way by witnessing Jesus' resurrection. They only brought suffering and eventual martyrdom upon themselves by doing so. Like their master, they were faithful to what they proclaimed no matter what. Our faith is founded on that witness that goes back to the beginning. In our faith, we find hope that there is a way out of darkness and that God can take any disaster or tragedy and make something good out of it. If we have sinned or suffered something terrible, it is not beyond redemption. God can transform it. The empty tomb gives us hope, hope that death is not the end of our existence, hope that death is not the end of life for



those we love, so we cannot place a stone before hope, insisting that we can and must hope because God is faithful. Through His victory, He has opened the gates of heaven for us and offered us forgiveness of sins and eternal joy in His presence.

Friends, Easter is the answer to all the tears that we shed at the graves of our loved ones because it tells us God has better things planned for us. Suppose we genuinely believe in Easter, the invitation to our eternal destiny. In that case, we must live a new life - orient our earthly activities and concerns towards what is most conducive to a life of faith in the Lord. Paul tells us we should be intent on the things above rather than on things on earth. If Christ's resurrection does not begin to transform us now, when will it start to do so? We can't wait for death to catch up with us. Sharing Christ's risen life must begin now through the grace He gives us in the sacraments.

St. Paul reminds us, "If it is only for this life that we hope in Christ, we are the most unfortunate of all" (1 Corinthians 15:19). The things of this world are transient regardless of their magnitude. Let us hold on to the things that reflect God's nature, like love, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and Communion. These realities do not end, and death cannot extinguish them. Today, God reveals not only the resurrection of His Son. God also shows us His plans for all His sons and daughters. May the hope of the new life in Christ fill your hearts today with Alleluia.

Please pray 🙏 for my mother, who passed in the early hours of Easter Sunday, 04/20/2003, twenty-two years ago.



HAPPY EASTER!

