**“The Resurrection of Christ”**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, He is risen. The one who died so we can live. The one who suffered humiliation so we can rejoice, the one who laid down His life for us so we can be free from the shackles of sin and death. He has risen from the tomb and has appeared first, to those chosen by God.

In the Book of the Acts of Apostles, our first reading, St. Peter gave us a summary of the public ministry of Jesus from the beginning, ending with His Paschal mystery. He began with the Baptism of Jesus at the hand of John the Baptist. He emphasized the anointing of Jesus by the Holy Spirit and His reception of power from on high. Peter said all these to let his audience know that Jesus is the Son of God and the Messiah sent by God to redeem us from our bondage to sin and death.

Peter went further by letting his audience know that he and the other apostles were eye witnesses of Jesus’ ministry in Galilee, Samaria, and in Jerusalem. He reminded them that Jesus was put to death by the authorities. However, God in His wisdom raised Him up on the third day. Thus completing His Paschal mystery. Peter let his audience know that only he and his companions ate and drank with Christ after His resurrection.

In our second reading, St Paul impressed upon those who because of their baptism that they should be Christ like. He informed them that they have received grace from God not to sin any more or do things that belong to the world. That they should instead, go after heavenly stuff such as virtues and holiness. He reminded them, that on the last day, they too would receive a glorified body from God if they remain faithful to God during their life on earth.

In our Gospel reading, St John gave us an account of the first witnesses to the resurrection of Christ. It was Mary of Magdala who first noticed the empty tomb of our Lord. Mary ran back to tell Peter and John about the empty tomb. Telling them that she and others ***(by the use of the word “We,”)*** saw the empty tomb.

So, Peter and John ran to the tomb with the younger John getting to the tomb first. But he did not go in. It was Peter who went into the tomb first, saw the burial cloths. One that was wrapped around the body and the other covering the face just as it was reported by John in his account of the burial of Lazarus. This account by St John of the tomb of Jesus, completes for us the Paschal mystery of Christ.

Our altar during the Mass of sacrifice, is the cross that our Lord carried and was crucified on. The white linen on the altar is the cloth that was used to wrap the face of Jesus. The corporal, which means corps on which the chalice and the paten are placed during consecration, is the body wrap or the shroud of Jesus for His burial. So, my brethren, we are at Calvary every time a Mass is celebrated. It is celebrated in an unbloody manner.

Can you imagine yourself being at the Passion and death of Christ and you are chatting, smiling, and carrying on as if you are in a ballroom dance while Christ is suffering? That is why the Mass is supposed to be said with the priest and the laity in solemn disposition. That is why a Mass should be said with the utmost reverence. After we have received Him worthily, then comes the joy of the resurrection or the joy of Easter as we go out into the world, living a live worthy of Whom we have received.

As we are here today to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we should think about the significance of the Mass in our lives. Every Mass, is the **“once for all”** perfect sacrifice of Calvary that happened about 2000 years ago. It should be our joy that Jesus in His love for us, has made the presentation of this sacrifice perpetually possible for us when He said, **“do this in memory of me”** (Luke 22:19b).

Jesus also said **“From the rising of the sun to its setting, my name is great among the nations; Incense offerings are made to my name everywhere, and a pure offering; For my name is great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts”** (Malachi 1:11). That is why we should also use incense during Mass especially on the Lord’s day.

We are blessed to be able to say Mass daily just as it is in heaven. At Mass, we re-present the same sacrifice which is also being presented on heaven’s altar for all eternity. It is not a repeat performance because, there is only one sacrifice for all time. We are reminded daily that Mass is our participation in that one sacrifice in the eternal life of the Trinity in heaven, where the Lamb stands eternally as High Priest and as if slain.

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us praise and thank God that He sent His Son to be the high Priest and the Lamb who won the battle for our salvation.