**“We Are a New Creation of God”**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! He is risen and the whole world rejoices at the rise from sleep of the King of kings, Lord of lords. He who took up our sins on His back with scourging, our spittle and the mark of the blow from the soldier on His face. He is risen and we are filled with joy because of the resurrection of our Lord.

During His three days of sleep in the earth, He looked for Adam and Eve our first parent. He showed them His cross, His weapon of our redemption. He showed them His head, hands and feet. On His head are the marks from the crown of thorns. The markings took away the pain caused by Adam and Eve in thinking they could be God by eating the forbidden fruit.

The nail markings on His feet took away the pain caused by the steps Adam and Eve took in walking to the tree of knowledge and evil. The markings on His hands took away the pain and shame of Adam and Eve’s reaching out to grab and eat the forbidden fruit.

He showed them the wound on His side, a reminder that when He slept on the cross and was pierced by the lance of the soldier, they should be reminded that, He put Adam to sleep in paradise and used his rib to bring forth Eve so that two, will be one.

It was at that moment of piercing, that He created His Church with the water from His side as a symbol of the water for our baptism, and the blood from His side, is His blood of the everlasting covenant we receive in the Holy Eucharist.

He then told Adam and Eve that He would restore them to paradise but not the earthly paradise, but the heavenly Paradise because God always brings greater good out of evil when it comes to those who love Him and who follow in His footsteps.

On the day Jesus was born, He brought joy into the world. On the day He rose from the dead, to complete our joy, He brought salvation into the world. How can we repay Him for the great things He has done for us!

My sisters and brothers, you see, Jesus could have erased all the marks of His suffering from His Body, but He brought them with Him from His sleep, so we can see them and be reminded that we too have to carry our crosses in this life so we could enjoy our inheritance with Him in His heavenly Paradise. His suffering reminds us to always follow in His footsteps so we can enjoy the unfathomable banquet His Father has prepared for us in His house.

Though we know we could never repay Jesus for what He has done to redeem us, all He asks from us, is to be filled in our lives with His JOY. His J O Y which means, Jesus, Others, and You. When we have Jesus and He is in us, we become one in Him and with Him. Then, we will love Him by obeying His commandments. When we take care of others’ needs before ours, we will be filled with joy in our hearts. It is after we first have what these two things, J and O stands for that our joy will be complete and we will have the type of peace that only God can give.

Yes my brothers and sisters, today is a day of great joy. A day when the true Lamb, the Light of the world who took away the sins of the world by dying, destroying death, and by rising, restored our lives. He came to give us our freedom from sin and the evil one. He is the joy of our salvation. He is the joy and light of our lives. Let us give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever. Each and every one of us, is the apple of His eyes. He is our God who sees us.

We who are here today, to be part of His joy, are blessed. As the Easter candle is glowing, a symbol of Christ as the eternal light, let us allow Him to fill us with His light so we can radiate His light to the world. He is risen and the devil has been defeated by the blood of the Lamb. Happy Easter to all.

As we come to receive Him in His everlasting covenant He made with us, let us rejoice that He is our Brother and by the shed of His blood, we have become children of God.