**“Resurrection”**

Today, all our readings point us to the resurrection. Death came through a man, on the other hand, resurrection of the dead came through a man. The Word of God took on our human flesh. The Son of God became the Son of man in order to unite us to Himself so we can become His adopted children and His brothers and sisters. This would not have been possible if the Son of God did not first unite Himself with us. It is the only way that what is corruptible and mortal in us could be transformed by what is incorruptible and immortal who is the Son of God. The Son of God became the son of man by taking flesh from Mary a member of the human race.

The Word made flesh makes humans divine by taking human flesh so He could suffer. He allowed Himself to suffer so that He might destroy death and sin and manifest our resurrection from the dead. The prophets of old through His inspiration and by His grace, foretold what He would do and fulfill what had been promised to our forefathers. Because of His death and resurrection, we no longer die as people condemned, but as people being resurrected from the dead into everlasting life with Him in paradise. It is at Easter that our joy becomes full because of the resurrection of our Lord. His resurrection, assures us of our own resurrection.

God had revealed His plan about the resurrection of His people right from the Old Testament times. In the 37th chapter of Ezekiel, verses 1-14, in a vision, God showed the prophet “dry bones” and asked if Ezekiel thought they would come alive again. Ezekiel responded that only God could know that. Then God told Ezekiel to prophesy over the bones. In the same instant, the bones took on flesh and God told the prophet to ask for the Holy Spirit to breathe into the formed bodies so they would have life. The Lord said that is what He would do to the house of Israel. We are the recipient of that promise of resurrection promised by God. Jesus has secured that promise for us we just have to obey His commandments of love.

In our first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles by St. Luke, we heard how Peter stood up and preached to the Jews and the Israelites about Jesus’ crucifixion and His resurrection. Peter who was hiding with the other apostles became very brave and unafraid after he received the gift of the Holy Spirit in the upper room. He reminded them that they handed Jesus over to be crucified by pagans. However, he told them all that happened to Jesus, were part of God’s plan for our salvation. Letting them know that they were part of God’s plan even though they used their free will to hand over Jesus to the Romans.

Peter then drew from the prophesy of king David in Psalm 16:8-11. The prophesy, talked about the resurrection of a holy one whose body will not see corruption. Peter then proved to them that the prophesy was not referring to king David because his bones are in his tomb in their land and his body had seen corruption. So, it must have been the Lord king David saw before him. On seeing Him, he was confident and fearless. His heart gladdened, his tongue exulted, and his flesh dwell in hope of his own resurrection, because of His Lord’s resurrection as the first born of all who will be resurrected to eternal life.

In our second reading, St. Peter told his audience that if they believe and call on the true God who judges us according to our works, then they should show reverence while they are in the world working their way towards their destination in heaven. Peter enjoined them to turn away from the ways of their fathers such as, turning away from idol worshipping which leads to destruction, Instead they must strive to follow and fulfill in themselves at every stage of their life, the plan and mysteries that the risen Lord had mapped out for us, to get us to heaven. He told them, they have been ransomed by the precious blood of Christ who like the Father has no beginning nor and end.

That Jesus existed with the Father before the foundation of the world was laid out by God. That this revelation was not plainly revealed to their fathers, has now been plainly revealed to them during the final times of the world. The final time started at the coming of Jesus Christ, so we are also living in the final time. And since they believed in God through Jesus who was resurrected from the dead, and who received glory from God the Father, their faith and hope in God must be solid because seeing the Son, and believing in Him is seeing the Father and believing in the Father. As Jesus said He and the Father are one.

In our Gospel reading, we have a fascinating story of two of Jesus’ disciples walking from Jerusalem or getting out of Dodge. They wanted to escape the hostility of the authorities who just put there leader/master/ and Lord to death. They were afraid. They were going to Emmaus about 7 miles away. As usual when two or more people witness an event, there will be differences in their opinion about what they witnessed. So, the two were conversing and debating about what they witnessed. All of a sudden, Jesus joined them. They were prevented from recognizing Him. Jesus asked them what they were talking and debating about!

The two were dumbfounded that there was someone in Jerusalem who did not hear or saw what happened to their beloved leader Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. They had high hopes that He would deliver Israel from their enemies. Then one of the two Cleopas told Jesus what had happened and that after 3 days some women disciples had gone to the grave of Jesus and could not find the body of Jesus. They reported that they had vision of angels who told them that Jesus had been resurrected from the dead.

Then, our Lord rebuked the two disciples and all those who were misguided by the Pharisees who only taught about the glory and power of the Messiah while ignoring what were related to His humiliation, suffering, and death. In essence, our Lord told them that they should believe all that God had revealed through His prophets. In the same light God requires of us Catholics to believe not only in those things that suit our inclinations or human desires, thereby receive water-down Christianity, but in all the truth He handed down through His Apostles. The doctrine of the Catholic Church is the doctrine of the Apostles which is the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

For family members and those who have stepped away from the true Church and from the fullness of faith in Christ, we pray that like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, They may open there hearts so that Christ may explain His Scripture to them again, and stir up in them the fires of faith, and show Himself to them again in the mist of His Church in the breaking of the bread.

As we come with reverence to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us ask Him to keep the fire of His message burning in our hearts so we will not turn away from His way, His truth, and His life.