

Easter Sunday

April 16, 2017

He has risen! He has risen indeed!

On Holy Thursday, we celebrated the institution of the Eucharist at the last supper. Where the Lord says to each one of us, “This is my body, which will be given up for you. This is my blood, which will be poured out for you.” We were all given a chance to receive Him in both species, the body and blood of our Lord. We also celebrated the institution of the Priesthood, where Jesus commissions His disciples to celebrate the Mass in memory of Him. Then finally, we were shown by Jesus, that figuratively we must wash the feet of one another and serve one another in love if we are to be His disciples.

On Good Friday, we heard the words, “He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his wounds we are healed.”

The readings on Good Friday were a most perfect depiction of God’s love for humanity. Where He freely lays down His life for each one of us. Where we heard that all the sins of humanity, were inflicted upon the one who was innocent and righteous and true. The perfect sacrifice, to reconcile all of humanity to God.

At that time, we were encouraged to unite our sufferings with His on the cross and acknowledge that through the cross all of humanity was reconciled with God.

After the service, as people came up to venerate the cross, I felt an overpowering feeling of His love for all of us. As I watched the people come up, the Lord filled my heart and revealed to me how much He loves each person. I was in awe as they gave Him homage in this way.

My dear brothers and sisters, the Lord loves each one of us, there is not a single person in this church who is exempt from this love. He loves each one of us so much, that if we were the only person in the world He would still have suffered on the cross for us. This is the extent of His love for us. Where He cherishes us, as His children, He stands at the door of our hearts and desires to come into our hearts so we can be united with Him in this way.

Last night we celebrated the Easter Vigil. The night when Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. This celebration is the most holy liturgical celebration of the year. The night where the newly elect are baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Today, we celebrate the risen Christ. By His resurrection, He has conquered

death, By His resurrection, He has conquered Sin. By His resurrection, we have been given the gift of new life in Christ and are reconciled with our Father in heaven.

So what is our response to this gift and outpouring of love? How do we open this gift or present from the Lord?

It is simple. He desires that we seek Him out, to search for Him with all our hearts. To spend time in prayer and truly search for Him. It means that we must look inward, in the quiet of our hearts and seek His presence. Jesus tell us that every soul who believes and trusts in His mercy will obtain it. He wants us to run to Him as a child would into their loving mother's arms. As in the gospel today, we see Mary Magdelane searching for Jesus at the tomb. Jesus says to her, "Woman, who are you looking for?" When she finally realizes that it is our Lord, she kneels in front of our Lord and is filled with joy. Then she runs back to the disciples proclaiming, "I have seen the Lord!" This is our response when we are filled with the peace of the Lord and when we have found Him in our hearts, we want to proclaim it to all the world.

Maybe some of you here this morning have never thought about having this type of personal relationship with Jesus before. That type of relationship that depends on Him as your Saviour, your Lord and your best friend. He is someone who will never let you go or let you down, regardless of what you have done or what has been done to you in the past.

Or maybe, you don't feel worthy. You say to yourself in your heart, the Lord will never forgive me of my sins or that one sin that I committed in my life. I am not worthy of His mercy. If I am speaking to you, I want you to know that, all the sins of the world, all of them combined, are but a drop in the ocean as compared to His mercy. The Lord also tells us through St Faustina's diary, "the greater the sinner, the greater the right that person has to His mercy."

It's time to lay down those hurts and give them to the Lord. Today is the day of salvation. Today is the day the Lord has made.

In Rev 3:20, the Lord says, "Behold I stand at the door of your heart and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will come in and dine with Him."

This morning, He is here with each one of us and He is knocking at the door of our hearts and inviting us to open that door and let Him come in. Any good will towards Him will be met with His love and mercy, that is because He loves us so much.

So I invite you and I encourage you to please bow your heads and join me in prayer. I will read the prayer slowly so you can follow along.

"Lord you love me and I thank you for what you have done for me, what you

did for me personally through your death and resurrection. Please help me to find you Lord, to know You and love You. In the past, I have sinned against you, I have gone astray, please forgive me Lord. I know that in this moment You are standing at the door of my heart.

Through this celebration today, I invite you to come into my heart and open the flood gates of your mercy so that You will rein in my heart as my Lord and Saviour. Help me to find you Lord. In Jesus name I pray.

Now if you just prayed this prayer with me, continue to speak to Him in the quiet of your hearts. Tell Him you love Him, tell Him how sorry you are from your past, give Him praise, give Him all your struggles and difficulties, use your own words and speak to Him as you would a best friend. He loves you so much and He has heard your prayer. There is not a single person here that He doesn't want to have this type of relationship with. So please do not doubt His goodness or mercy for your life.

Later this morning, we will get also get a chance to renew our baptismal promises where we will be sprinkled with the blessed baptismal waters. Let us also take this opportunity to allow the Lord to cleanse us with His grace, to continue to fill us with His mercy and to make us a new creation through the renewal of our own baptismal promises.

Then, we are invited to receive Him in the Eucharist, the glorified body, blood soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us receive Him as if we were receiving Him for the first time. Let us open our heart for Him as we say AMEN before we receive, which means, I believe that You are the Lord, the Christ, the Redeemer of my soul.

After we receive Him today in the Eucharist, as you sit in your pew, I invite you to look upon the Divine Mercy banner and venerate the Image of Jesus. As you look upon the Lord in this image, imagine that He is pleased with you and that He loves you. Imagine that He is pouring out His rays of mercy on you.

Today, this Easter Sunday, this truly is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad! Alleluia, Alleluia!

All glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN.