

EASTER SUNDAY YEAR C 2022.
THE EMPTY TOMB.

Since Ash Wednesday, we have had 40 days of Lent culminating today with this great day of EASTER SUNDAY, the **Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Throughout all of Lent, we have accompanied our Lord Jesus Christ on the journey through **deserts, mountains, streets, homes, and backyards...**

We have felt His Presence in different activities: **fasting, abstinence, prayer, and ALMSGIVING (in the form of **charitable** activities such as feeding the **poor and homeless**, **giving clothing to those in need**, **joining humanitarian works in the Ukraine**, **providing water tanks for clean water in Kenya!**) Our works of mercy should not end with Lent, but be our daily joyful undertaking, as this is what we call the Resurrection (and New Way).**

Today we celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ's victory over the power of the evil one, conquering pain, suffering, sin, and death through the Resurrection. Our song today should be ***He is risen! Alleluia! Let us rejoice and be glad! Alleluia!***

We obtain our salvation through Christ's Resurrection...it is in this that we gain **strength, confidence, and courage.**

This is clearly manifested in the first reading through the preaching of the Apostle Peter who once was weak...yet his

faith grew and changed and **after the Resurrection he stood firm and strong leading and guiding the Church, taking responsibility** and following the command of our Lord
****Behold you are Peter and in you I will build my Church...***

Is this preaching not part of that duty and responsibility taking control through our Lord and the power of the Resurrection! Change from being a coward into being a strong **Rock**.

We are called in the second reading to focus on the new life of Christ and to seek the Kingdom of Heaven brought to us through the Resurrection (Col.3:1-4).

In the Gospel of John today we see the irresistible active power of the Resurrection, setting everyone into motion (Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, the apostle...they all ran).

This is clearly seen through the great **apostle to the Apostles, Mary Magdalene**...in finding the **Empty tomb, she ran AWAY FROM THE EMPTY TOMB, TO THE APOSTLES and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put Him."** This is indeed an example of preaching after witnessing the Resurrection by using both words and actions to **run away** from the empty tomb. In turn the Apostles **upon hearing the news run toward the tomb to witness this great miracle**. They have all become witnesses to preach the Resurrection.

First they verify the truth by looking inside the tomb and seeing that the linen **which had wrapped and held Jesus** was left behind inside. The linens could no longer tie and hold Him there.

Easter is all about **the Risen Lord**, spreading the Resurrection, and witnessing it (in our words and actions like Mary Magdalene and Simon Peter). This is our call today... to witness Christ in our present world which is **volatile, hostile, and sometimes violent**. How do we witness the Lord in such an environment?

We need to leave behind the linens of **frustration, sin, pride, envy, bitterness, sickness, pain, and even death** which might be holding us back to following Jesus. We need to be free people from the linen cords tying us to past sin, very much like our master Jesus was freed from the linens of death. We need to run from the **tomb to the world, proclaiming the Good News as a witness of Christ (words), and to run from the world to Christ (actions)**. (If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Col 3:1).

What might be the linen tying/holding you from witnessing Christ this Easter? Easter must not be a **one day spiritual trip BUT a LIFE-LONG JOURNEY with our Lord and with one another**. Let us witness Christ in our present time. The Lord

will give that **light and peace so desperately needed in our world today.** We need them to survive the different **Storms in our lives.** We are the **agents of the Resurrection (We are an “Easter people” and Alleluia is our song! Pope John Paul II).**

BE A-WITNESS TO SOMEONE THIS EASTER.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL.