

CHRIST IS RISEN

Today, we acknowledge and proclaim that “Christ has died! Christ is risen!! Christ will come again.”

The resurrection of Christ is the foundation and central pillar of all Christian hope. On one of his discussions of Christ’s ministry, Paul recounted “...and if Christ has not been raised from the dead, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for if we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in sin. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ. We are of all people most to be pitied” (1 Cor. 15:1-20). But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead (1 Cor. 15:1-20). This is why one can claim, based on the scriptures, that the resurrection of Christ is not just a story, but the experience lived by the disciples, our ancestors in faith. We are today’s witnesses of the resurrection in fellowship with the apostles (1 Jn. 1:3) who witnessed in person.

Another dependable truth is that the resurrection of Christ is more for His Church than for Himself. Our mortal life on earth must transcend to the immortal divine life of God. In the resurrection of Christ, we all share in that fullness of God’s life. The resurrection of Christ restores us to our former glory: the image and likeness of God (Eph. 2:6, 2 Cor. 3:18). What we celebrate today is not only the joy of the first Easter, we celebrate a greater and more glorious joy because the Church; that is, you, me, Christ, and all the people of good will, have access to the Father through Christ’s death and resurrection. We are people of the Easter (Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:27). There is more to this. Our relationship with the Father, through the resurrection of Christ, calls for an intentional commitment.

The resurrection of Christ invites us to the newness of life in that “if you have risen with Christ, seek then those things which are above, where Christ is seated on the right hand of God” (Col 3:1-3).

Indeed, the teaching of Easter is new to every culture. It was new to the early Christians in Palestine. Thomas refused to believe and so did Saul. To us, the challenge of Easter is new is new every day. Because of this challenge, we need a constant renewal of our Christian commitment so that we may have the newness of life required by our baptismal covenant and discipleship (Acts 9:2).

The end-point of the resurrection is joy. Easter Vigil starts with the Exultant, the song of our rejoicing. To have this joy of the resurrection, we must be apostolic. By apostolic we must be hopeful in the 2nd coming of the Lord (Jn. 14 1-7), we must be practical in our faith. Our faith must be evangelical in character; able to bring others to the Lord as fishermen gather all types of fish. God will take care of separating them; don’t worry about that part. Above all, our faith must be joyfully loving. The love of the Father must be evident in all we do or say. The memory of today’s celebration leads us to the Father, where joy never ends. Amen.

God bless all of you who invited family, friends and neighbors to celebrate with us. Continue to invite more, the heart of Our Father has room for all. Happy Easter!!

Your humble servant,

Father Chrysogonus