

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Acts 10: 34, 37-43.

The resurrection of Jesus is the heart of the earliest public announcement of God's salvation through Jesus' victory over death.

Second Reading: Corinthians 5: 6-8.

Christ's resurrection challenges the Christian to die to his corrupt and wicked ways and to rise as a new person, sincere and faithful.

Gospel: John 20: 1-9.

Seeing the empty tomb, the disciple understood for the first time the teaching of Scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.

Points for Reflection

Dear brothers and sisters in our Lord,

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We should pray that this celebration of Easter will bring us the grace from God to see the meaning of the Resurrection for Jesus and ourselves.

1. For Jesus:

- The resurrection meant, above all, that his death on the Cross did not mark the end of his life and of his mission.
When we reflect on the life of Jesus, we can see that it was a very hard and difficult life. But since all Jesus did, he did it out of love for the Father and for us, today we celebrate the reward of that love in the Resurrection. Because of his total obedience to the Father, the Father wanted the life and mission of his Son Jesus to go on beyond the barriers of death. This means that Jesus is still alive and present among us. And his life is now a life in which the Spirit enables him to be free of all material limitations and obstacles. Jesus now lives a life of an undisturbed love for his Father and us.
- The Resurrection means also that Jesus' work of salvation still continues beyond his death. He is still fully committed to the spreading of God's kingdom among us: to the creation of a new world to be built on truth, justice and love.

2. For us:

- Jesus is the first-fruits of the Resurrection, but not the only one. He has been given by the Father the power to enable us to be part of God's kingdom, provided we are willing to follow him in giving our contribution to the creation of the new world inaugurated by his Resurrection. The risen Jesus gives us the ability to love: to spend our lives in the service of others. The risen Jesus gives us the wisdom and strength to build a society on the basis of justice and love. He keeps our hope alive and gives us the courage to go on even when everything seems to fail.
- Jesus' Resurrection, therefore, is our resurrection, too. For us to be risen with Jesus means to hope that by our humble, but active contribution, Jesus will accomplish his work of salvation. And nothing better than this will give meaning and purpose to our lives. Let us, therefore, praise and thank God with the words of St Peter: *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"* (1 Pet. 1: 3).

A happy and blessed Easter to each and all of you!

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