

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Easter Sunday is the celebration of the most extraordinary event in human history: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Today, we reflect not only on the joy of this event but also on the evidence that supports our faith in the resurrection. The readings and Gospel for this day (Acts 10:34, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-23; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9) provide us with profound insights into the reality of the resurrection and its implications for our lives.

The Gospel of John recounts the discovery of the empty tomb by Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the beloved disciple. The burial cloths left behind in the tomb are particularly significant. John notes that the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was rolled up in a separate place, a detail that suggests order and intention rather than theft or chaos. This small but profound detail invites us to see the resurrection as a deliberate act of God, not a random occurrence. The empty tomb is not just a physical sign but a symbol of hope. It proclaims that death does not have the final word. As the beloved disciple saw the empty tomb and believed, we too are called to believe in the power of the resurrection, even when we cannot see it with our own eyes.

In the first reading from Acts, Peter boldly proclaims the resurrection of Jesus, stating, "We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. But God raised him on the third day and made him manifest" (Acts 10:39-40). Peter's testimony is not based on hearsay but on his personal experience of the risen Christ. The apostles' willingness to suffer and die for their proclamation of the resurrection is a powerful testament to its truth.

The resurrection appearances of Jesus further confirm the reality of this event. Jesus appeared to his disciples, spoke with them, and even ate with them, demonstrating that he was not a ghost or a vision but truly alive in a glorified body. These encounters transformed the disciples from fearful followers into courageous witnesses, willing to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

During the Easter Vigil, the Paschal Candle is lit to symbolize the light of Christ breaking through the darkness of sin and death. This candle remains lit throughout the Easter season, reminding us of the enduring presence of the risen Christ in our lives. It is a visible sign of the resurrection, calling us to live as children of the light.

The resurrection is not just an event to be remembered but a reality to be lived. St. Paul urges us in the second reading to "seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God" (Colossians 3:1). This means living as people transformed by the resurrection, bringing hope, love, and joy to a world in need.

As we celebrate Easter, let us hold fast to the evidence of the resurrection: the empty tomb, the witness of the women and apostles, and the enduring presence of Christ in the Eucharist and in our lives. Let us proclaim with joy: **Christ is Risen! Alleluia! He is truly risen! Alleluia!**

Happy Easter to you all!

Fr. Bula.