



## Christ is Risen!

On this feast of the Resurrection of the Lord, the liturgy proclaims: *This is the Day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice in it. Alleluia!* This is the Feast that sums up all the Sundays and feast days throughout the whole liturgical year. This is the Feast that gives credence to all the other celebrations of our Catholic faith. This is the Feast that celebrates salvation.

In his first Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul proclaims: *If there is no resurrection of the dead, Christ himself cannot have been raised, and if Christ has not been raised then our preaching is useless and your believing it is useless...and if Christ has not been raised you are still in your sin.* (1Cor.15:14-18)

Throughout the Old Testament, the chosen people believed and expected a Messiah, one sent by God to bring salvation to the descendents of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. From the time of their liberation from slavery in Egypt, the Hebrews religiously celebrated the Paschal Meal. It was the celebration of the victory in the past and the promise of the victory in the future.

It is in the Resurrection that Jesus validates all He said and did. His Resurrection is His final victory over sin and death. The Resurrection is the proof of His identity. As he predicted: *Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.* (Jn. 2-19)

Once again in the celebration of the liturgical calendar of the year, we celebrate victory, Christ's victory. That is the final and indisputable event that makes faith in Christ valid. It is the Paschal Mystery that has procured our redemption and all those who believe that Jesus is the promised One.

This Easter, as at every Easter since the Resurrection, we, like the women who went in search of his body, celebrate the empty tomb. It is the empty tomb that causes us to joyfully sing: *Dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life!*

For us who believe, the Resurrection is a central truth of our faith. As the ultimate proof of His divinity and the culmination of all He said and did, we join with the apostles and all the faithful in proclaiming: *Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again.*

May the blessings and joys of this Easter be the occasion to raise our voices in singing *Alleluia* and celebrating what was proclaimed by the angel at the empty tomb: *He is risen as He said!* (Matt 28:6) ALLELUIA!