

Easter Sunday

John 20:1-9

Christ is risen!

We sing “**Alleluia**”! (literally rendered from the Hebrew: "All hail to Him Who is!")

Today we *must* sing “**Alleluia**”!

Why?

What if we do not feel like it?

What if all of this is rather foreign to us?

Christ’s resurrection touches each one of us.

We do not necessarily know it or feel it.

We can, at the very least, let ourselves be carried by the hope of those around us.

Divine hope can extend to others.

We cannot prove Christ’s resurrection.

We simply come to know it deep inside.

It is a statement of *faith*, and as Saint Paul says,

“If Christ is not risen, then vain is our faith.” (I Corinthians 15:17)

Christ’s resurrection is His victory over all that hinders love.

And this victory, forever won, forever complete, beyond my awareness, is all *for me*.

Christ would have died and risen if I were the only person on earth.

The victory is *mine*!

How can we not truly cry out with the psalmist: “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good,
for His mercy endures forever.”?

If the victory is ours, then, in celebrating the Risen Christ, we celebrate *our rising*.

St. Paul tells us

- “You were raised with Christ”. and, consequently,
- “Your life is hidden with Christ in God”.

What does this mean?

“I feel neither *hidden*, nor like I am living *in God*!”

What does this mean?

It means that *deep inside* we too rise from any death.

We *will* rise from physical death, and, each day, we *can* rise from all other “deaths”.

It means that we are *truly joined* to the Risen Christ,
and thus, *deep inside, live in Him*, i.e. God.

We are, of course, still on this earth, walking and talking and wondering and shopping(!),
but the depths of us are intimately and respectfully held by Christ
– if we truly belong to Him.

We *do* belong to Christ; otherwise, we would not be here.

We belong to Him insofar as we are secretly drawn by Him.

We also belong to Him insofar as we *choose* Him

Today there is an invitation to choose Him, and thus belong to Him even more,
and thus know resurrection more intimately.

We must welcome Him and His victory today and every day.

This gospel from John 20 helps us to discover and share in the victory.
Once again, it is the victory of divine love, which reaches beyond death.
Here we see divine love reach Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John.

as it can and ought to reach us, a love that, in turn, they share with us.
What is its most manifest effect in Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John?

- youthful zeal
- joyful haste
- hopeful desire

They all *run*!

Don't you just love it?!?

They all run like little kids!

And it is not simply because they are in good shape.

Haste is a characteristic of love.

They all want to discover.

They are all willing to believe.

The other sign that they act under the influence of divine love
is the respect that they show towards one another.

Mary Magdalene runs to inform Peter and John, that, *together*, they might investigate.

They all run to the tomb. John, being particularly youthful, arrives first.

But he lets Peter enter first, respectful of his responsibility for the Twelve.

It is important to recall that divine love is *personal* and *respectful* and never *exclusive*.

They are not fighting for a privileged position.

They each know they already have one.

They form a community.

Once inside the tomb, what they find implies newness,
and leads them to greater discovery of this Christ whom they thought they knew.

They saw and they believed.

Christ, though more intimately present to us than we are to ourselves, is a mystery.

As much as we may know him, as long as we journey on this earth,
we will *seek* to know him.

Christ is risen and He wants to be known, He wants to be experienced.

Let us yield to Him in love.

We have every reason to rejoice.

Joy should be our banner, and our cloak, and our song.

If death has not stopped Christ, none of our difficulties will.

Let us then rejoice.