

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

Easter Sunday of the
Lord's Resurrection
Year B, April 4, 2021

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Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa
Pastor

Our Sunday Masses are now held inside the Church,
on Saturdays at 4:30 PM and on Sundays at 8:30 AM.
Please come in a face mask and observe social distancing.

and rise with Christ, we
become BORN AGAIN.

Thus, death is no longer the final end of life. It has become the passage to eternal life. In our Gospel this Easter night, this truth is expressed once more in the words of the two men in dazzling garments, bringing a new world into being: *"Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."*

Finally, this night offers a symphonic chorus proclaiming God acting to bring all creation to new life.

Each time we hear those four words – *"He has been raised"* – we are challenged to believe. Do you believe? If so, will you renew your baptismal promises?

We renew our baptismal promises this night and give courage to each other to live a "renewed" or deepened experience of the Lord in our daily life.

At the 8:30 am Easter Sunday Mass

1st Reading:

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 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. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

At the Easter Vigil (Saturday 7:30 pm)

Tonight brings us to the great climax of our Paschal Celebration, as we light the new fire symbolizing Christ, the light of the world, and listen to the great hymn of praise and exultation.

Then the story of our salvation is told in tonight's readings. It begins with the account of Creation, followed by the story of Abraham's willingness to trust God to be provider and promise-keeper. God's powerful delivery of Moses and his people follows until we come to Paul's reminder of our Baptism into Christ's death, burial and resurrection to new life.

Finally, in the Gospel reading (Mark 16:1-7), we hear the voice of the angel: "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here . . . Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.'"

This echoes the words Jesus said to his disciples on Mount of Olives, just before Judas betrayed him with a kiss. There Jesus said: "This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, but after I have been raised up, I shall

go before you to Galilee."

This is what we are celebrating tonight and for the next fifty (50) days—the disciples' experience of the appearances of Jesus especially once they were back to their daily grind in Galilee.

The message for us today is that if we truly believe in what we are celebrating now, that is to say, the resurrection of the Lord, we will experience His presence in our daily life.

As narrated in our First Reading tonight, from the book of Genesis chapter one, in the beginning there was DARKNESS and chaos until God created LIGHT — thus, ONE DAY — the first day.

Our celebration tonight is the climax of the NEW LIGHT, NEW CREATION, of the NEW DAY.

From the darkness of GOOD FRIDAY (that is to say, Christ's suffering, death, and burial) to the NEW LIGHT of EASTER SUNDAY (Christ's resurrection to new life — thus, the *triduum* is three days in ONE DAY — the first day of the week.

Thus, at our baptism, when we die to our sins



The Mystery of Faith:

Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD . . . GUIDEPOSTS

Responsorial Psalm:

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.”

R.
“The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; the right hand of the LORD is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.”

R.
The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

R.

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Sequence

Victimae Paschali Laudes

Christians, // to the Paschal Victim Offer your thankful praises! // A Lamb the sheep redeems; // Christ, who only is sinless, // Reconciles sinners to the Father. // Death and life have contended // in that combat stupendous: // The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal. // Speak, Mary, declaring What you saw, wayfaring. // “The tomb of Christ, who is living, // the glory of Jesus’ resurrection; // bright angels attesting, // the shroud and napkin resting. // Yes, Christ my hope is arisen; // to Galilee he goes before you.” // Christ indeed from death is risen, // our new life obtaining. // Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning! // Amen. Alleluia.

Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia

All: Alleluia, Alleluia

Lector: Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed; let us then feast with joy in the Lord.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel: John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!

The Christian experience of Lent may be likened to the experience of a mother preparing for the birth of her child. The forty days of Lent are like the nine months of pregnancy during which period she makes sacrifices like fasting or abstaining from whatever activity or food that will not contribute to the birth of a healthy child. Joy characterizes her being even though at times she expresses different emotions because of the sacrifices she makes.

Likewise the *Paschal Triduum* may be likened to the time when the mother is in labor. Even if at this moment the emotion she expresses is pain, her being is constantly one of JOY knowing that her child is about to be born. And this joy deep within her being bursts into an emotion of happiness once the child is born.

In the same way, the JOY with which we greet one another today, Easter Sunday, has two essential, inseparable elements, like the two sides of a coin: on the one side is the passion/suffering (Good Friday) and on the other side is the resurrection (Easter Sunday). These two sides or aspects form one unity. As a people gifted with the Spirit of Jesus, the Risen Lord, every aspect of our life should be an experience of *triduum*—a passage from Good Friday via Holy Saturday to Easter Sunday.

PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION: The empty tomb of Jesus does not prove by itself the resurrection; it is the first hint of it. To affirm that Jesus had risen, an angel appeared who announced to those looking for Jesus that he had risen. But evidence of the resurrection becomes clearer when Jesus shows up himself and offers to let his apostles touch his wounds and see that he is real. It wasn’t just to one or two people that he appeared. Not counting the women to whom he appeared first of all and to the two disciples going to Emmaus, Paul gives us a long list of people who saw Jesus: Peter, the Twelve, more than 500 brothers and sisters, then James, and then to all the apostles, then to Paul himself (cf. 1 Cor 15:3-8).

QUESTION TO ASK: Have you encountered the risen Lord: through the Word, through the Eucharist? Do you bear witness to these encounters to others?

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

CELEBRANT:

As we shout our alleluias and sing our hymns of praise, let us pray with trust and hope for the many needs of our church and our world.

LECTOR:

1.) For God's holy Church, renewed this day in the sacred waters of Baptism, as we joyfully proclaim in our words and deeds the salvation won by Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

2.) That the peace of the Risen Christ, which surpasses understanding, wash over our nation and world, bringing unity and harmony, let us pray to the Lord.

3.) For those who have sinned, who have hurt others by their actions or their failure to act, that they may know the mercy of the Risen Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

4.) For the newly baptized members of the Church throughout the world: May their new life in Christ Jesus enliven the faith of those around them, let us pray to the Lord.

5.) For our community of faith, renewed this Easter day and filled with the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

CELEBRANT:

Risen Savior, hear and answer these prayers. Let our alleluias fill the world with your love as we seek to live our faith and respond generously to the needs of others. We ask this in your holy name. Amen..

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month: This annual observance is dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse. Children who experience abuse or neglect can suffer from physical, psychological, and behavioral issues. Please keep all victims/survivors of abuse in your prayers.

An excerpt from Bishop McElroy's letter, read at all the Masses in the Diocese of San Diego last Sunday:

"As we approach Holy Week, I write to you in hope as a pathway for emerging from the Covid pandemic is now clear for our nation. The love of God has accompanied us throughout this painful year of sickness, death and isolation, and now God has brought us vaccines that can heal us and heal our world.

It is vitally important that all of us receive the Covid vaccine. The Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson are safe and effective. They are fully approved for use at this moment by the teachings of our Church. And as Pope Francis has so clearly taught, receiving the vaccine is not only for ourselves as individuals. It is for everyone that we treasure, to keep them safe and healthy and bring back the joy of life to us all.

. . . . The sooner we are all vaccinated, the sooner we will be able to return to the many joys of our lives that we have missed during this past year of suffering. The vaccines, with our continued masking and social distancing during the coming months, will bring this hateful pandemic to an end."

A REMINDER RE CORONA VIRUS PROTOCOLS:

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person, typically through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, or talking.

Airborne transmission is infection spread through exposure to those virus-containing respiratory droplets comprised of smaller droplets and particles that can remain suspended in the air over long distances (usually greater than 6 feet) and time (typically hours).

Also, it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

When should I quarantine for the coronavirus disease?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more.
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them).
- You shared eating or drinking utensils.

Do I still need to quarantine after I tested negative for COVID-19 but was exposed to someone who has COVID-19?

Yes. You should still self-quarantine for 14 days since your last exposure. It can take up to 14 days after exposure to the virus for a person to develop COVID-19 symptoms.

A negative result before end of the 14-day quarantine period does not rule out possible infection.

By self-quarantining for 14 days, you lower the chance of possibly exposing others to COVID-19.

The best way to protect yourself and others is to stay home for 14 days if you think you've been exposed to someone who has COVID-19.

BEATING BURNOUT SERIES: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLNESS:

All parish ministers are invited to a special series devoted to social and emotional wellness during these challenging times. These free one-hour workshops will be offered in English and Spanish throughout the month of April and will assist you as you minister to those you serve. Registration is required. Call 858-490-8232 to register or to inquire for specific topics and schedule.

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