

EASTER SUNDAY

THE LORD IS RISEN; HE HAS BROUGHT NEW LIFE

Alleluia! The Lord is risen. Victory is won by Christ. The devil is conquered. Humankind is set free. Heaven's gates are opened. The heavens and the earth are glad; the Israelites and the angels are rejoicing.

If you have any doubt ask Mary Magdalene, and listen to the testimony of Peter read a few moment ago: "We are witnesses to 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. To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

Our baptism is a sign that we have died with Christ and risen with Him. St. Paul told the Romans, "By our baptism into His death we were buried with Him, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glorious power, we too should begin living a new life," (Rom. 6:4). But is it true that we have risen with Him? Was I able to journey with Christ during Lent and so be very glad to rejoice with Him as He is risen?

If we are the Easter people, then what next? St. Paul tells us what to do. "If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Col. 3:1-4). One above has a superior power. Even fruits and vegetables picked from trees are more nutritious than tubers from the earth.

Paul tells us again; "Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be new dough, as you really are unleavened. For Christ our Paschal Lamb has

been sacrificed. Let us therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth,” (1Cor. 5:6-8).

Some practical ways to do away with the old leaven are found in Ephesians: “So from now on there must be no more lies. Speak the truth to one another. Even if you are angry, do not sin; never let the sun set on your anger, or else you give the devil a foothold. Anyone who was a thief must stop stealing; instead he should exert himself at some honest job with his own hands so that he may have something to share with those in need. No foul words should ever cross your lips; let your words be for the improvement of others, and do good for your listeners; do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God who has marked you with His seal. Any bitterness or bad temper or anger, or shouting or abuse must be far removed from you - as of every kind of malice. Be generous to one another, sympathetic, forgiving each other as readily as God forgave you in Christ. No more impurity of any form, or greed,” (Eph. 4:25-5:2).

There is the temptation to think that Lent is over so we can go back and do the old things again; things which were not pleasing to God. It is good to keep on disciplining ourselves and live a new life in Christ. To live always in the Risen Lord, it is very important to pray more than we have been doing. Pray twice the number times you eat and drink. If you do not have a Bible, buy one and start reading it for God’ direction. This is the day the Lord has made; let our souls rejoice and be glad in it.