

EASTER SUNDAY
CHRIST MY HOPE IS RISEN

Sunday, April 9, 2023

When one is acquitted from a lawsuit or litigation, there is joy and jubilation. There is a big celebration with family and friends. Today, we have won our case brought against us by Satan, because our attorney and judge, Jesus Christ has dismissed all the charges. So, there is cause for rejoicing. We are to celebrate 'for our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed and He has defeated Satan'.

Christ our hope is risen from the dead, and if we have any doubt, there are witnesses to confirm what we celebrate today. Mary Magdalene saw the empty tomb and saw Jesus alive. St. Peter tells us that they saw Him and ate with Him after He rose from the dead. He continued to say that He commissioned them to preach to the people and testify that He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. St. Peter makes us aware that even before them, the prophets prophesied about Him.

The tomb is empty, the scarf and the shroud are still in the tomb; this was what Mary Magdalene saw, and the Son of Man is revealing Himself to the disciples giving them hope that He is alive.

How can I make the victory meaningful to me and my joy be complete? It is to seek what is above, where Christ is seated. I am to clear out the old yeast which is my old sinful nature so that I can live a new way of life in the Lord. I was given forty days to clear every dirt and filth in my heart and mind in order to see the risen Lord and be part of His victory. Were those days like any ordinary days of the year? Was I able to change some aspects of my life which were not good in the eyes of God?

The color for today and this season is white; is my heart as white as the dress worn at Easter? Have I decided to be more truthful,

sincere, honest and respectful? Have I decided to be a better person as a husband and a father, as a wife and a mother, as a child and a son or daughter?

St. Paul wants me to let my thoughts be on things above, not on things that are on the earth, and so I “must kill everything in me that is earthly: sexual vice, impurity, uncontrolled passion, evil desires, and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god” (Col.3:3&5). St. Paul gives us some other practical ways we can live as Easter people; to speak the truth, and even if we are angry, we should not sin. There should be no more cheating but to do honest work to be able to get something to share with others.; no foul language should cross our lips but to say things that will encourage people; (cf. Eph.4:25ff). My love for others should grow and increase.

During Lent I might have resolved to do some good things and put away certain bad habits; am I going to continue with those resolutions or am I going to stop because Lent is over? I should continue to pray, fast sometimes, and give alms. This will enable me grow in my spiritual life. I should always remind myself that doing penance and repenting from my sins is not only confined to the season of Lent but an everyday affair. Is my singing of Alleluia out of emotion or is it driven by spiritual joy in the victory of Christ?

The disciples did not keep the resurrection experiences to themselves, they bore witness to them. How many times have I borne witness to Christ? What personal experiences with Jesus can I share with others? Jesus tells me today as He told Mary Magdalene and the other women: “go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; there they will see me” (Mt.28:10b).