

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Matthew (*Matthew 28:5-7*)

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.' Now I have told you." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Sharing in the Power of the Resurrection

God's promises are always fulfilled in His time. *Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." (John 2:19).* For all important events, God always gives advance warning. Christ foretold His disciples that He would be put to death by the Jewish authorities but would rise again on the third day. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead as He has foretold His disciples. Stricken with grief at the death of Jesus, fear for their lives, guilt for not standing by Jesus and not fully understanding the unlimited power of God, the disciples were joyfully astounded when they received the news that Jesus has resurrected from the dead. *God is not human, that He should lie, not a human being, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill? (Numbers 23:19).* Scripture has proven that God is totally reliable in keeping all His promises. He does not change His mind and has unlimited power to do just as He says He would.

The resurrection of Christ gives authenticity to our faith. *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins (1 Corinthians 15:17).* If Christ has not risen our faith is based on human precepts with no real power of redemption and salvation of our souls. But by His resurrection, Christ proved once and for all that He is not merely human but in fact what He tells us in words and by His actions that He is the Messiah, the only Son of the one true God. The Jewish leaders knew this and when the guards reported to them the resurrection of Jesus, they devised a plan of deception telling the guards to spread the lie that the disciples of Jesus came and took His Body away during the night. Sadly the deception persists even to this day among Jews and unbelievers. Jesus could have appeared after His resurrection to those who did not believe in His divinity, but He did not do so, instead chose to appear to those who loved and believed in Him. *Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My Side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"... (John 20:27-28).*

Christ's resurrection gives us victory over sin and eternal death. Christ came in the flesh so that He can die on our behalf, and on rising through the glory of God the Father win on our behalf victory over sin and eternal death. *We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life (Romans 6:4).* Eternal death due to sin, no longer has any hold over us. No evil in whatsoever form has any hold over us after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God. The whole world is changed by Christ's resurrection.

We share in the power of Christ's Resurrection. Christ's resurrection not only opens the doors of heaven but also enables us to live a life of righteousness that comes only from Him. No matter how strong our disbelief, if we open our hearts to God's graces, we can begin to live a life of grace through the gift of faith. No matter how entrenched our lives are in sin, the power of Christ's resurrection can free us of all diabolical bondages and infestations. No matter how hopeless and difficult our problems, our life may seem, the power of Christ's resurrection can bring us hope and overcome every difficulty with grace. No matter how many times we fall into sin, we can always rise again and live a life of righteousness in Christ. *God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).* Through His life, death and resurrection, Christ earns for all of us all the graces we need to overcome all sin, live a life of righteousness and finally to attain heaven.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, by a single act of mercy and power through Your resurrection, You changed the world forever and give eternal freedom to all those who embraced You as their personal Lord and Saviour. United to Your Sacred Heart, I pray that all people be awakened to the truth of Your love and promise of eternal life and joy. Mary, Mother of salvation, pray for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.