

The Resurrection of Jesus

“He is not here, he has been raised just as he said (Mt.28:7).”

The resurrection is the fulfillment of the promise that Jesus will come again in glory. It emphasizes the idea that the Lord is faithful forever. This is telling us that he is at all times true to his promise and that he is the Lord of life. As the Lord of life he will live forever to journey with his people. And his Kingdom will have no end for he lives in eternity. Jesus is life and he lives forever.

On the other hand, he is sending the message of hope through his resurrection also. We need to remember that resurrection happens after the passion and death. From the painful experience he rises in glory to prove that death has nothing to do with life. His death on the cross is only a way to let us understand that death could not hinder him in showing his love for us. He is telling us in his resurrection that in spite of our limitations he is there alive to embrace us and let us understand that he cares for us. His passion and gradually his death are reminding us of our own limitations before him. And because of these he offers his life on the cross that we may have life. And this life is a life to the full. Therefore, we need to realize that because of our sins and failures he prefers to embrace the cross. He thinks nothing of himself but solely of loving us. We are the reason of his suffering and death and because of these we receive life, a new life with him. His gives us hope in the midst of our faults and failures. *“I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).*

If we have to be honest in reflecting the resurrection we could say that we are not worthy of this given new life to us. We have failures and our failures are greater than our goodness. We are nothing actually before him but he shows us

that his love for us surpasses our limitations. He is the Lord of life and love. With this we could be speechless before him and from the recesses of our hearts in silence and in awe and wonder we can only say, *“Thank you Lord for loving us though we are not worthy.”*

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Reflection on the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ

We can read in the Gospel of Luke that after the Last Supper, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane at the Mount of Olives and prayed, *“Father, if it is your will, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done.”* This was an intense moment between the Son and His Father. Jesus prayed so intensely to His Father because He knew the sacrifice that was set before Him. This sacrifice, starting from the agony in the garden, betrayal of His friends until His death on Calvary, was never devoid of physical suffering and emotional pain because He is fully human like us yet he endured and embraced it whole-heartedly.

We are once again in the Season of Lent. This season brings us again to the Passion and Death of our Lord. We will be confronted once again to the bloody and brutal scene of his immolation. His Passion and Death is the greatest act that only He could supply to please the Father. This act was finally accomplished on the Cross. Jesus` Passion and Death is not for Himself but for mankind. There is no sacrificial lamb

that can be offered as a perfect sacrifice on the altar of the cross to wash away our sins but Jesus` own blood. Through the Lamb of God, man`s communion with God was restored pouring out His own blood for many for the forgiveness of sins. He paid for our freedom with the price of his own blood—His suffering and death.

As we journey in the Season of Lent, let us contemplate the Holy Week recalling to mind what our Lord endured for our salvation. Let us remind ourselves that the redemption worked by Christ on the Cross requires personal recognition of our own responsibilities. The fruits and merits of Christ`s Passion and Death need to be applied in our life by means of practice of faith, reception of the sacraments, conversion of heart, and accepting all the hardships in life. Meditating on His Passion and Death should strengthen us to be more faithful, should move us to reconcile with God through the reception of the sacrament of Confession, and keep us on the path of doing the will of the Father. Christ achieved a great redeeming value for us by enduring and embracing wholeheartedly all that He had to face. Jesus crucified on the cross is the greatest love story that is ever told—Jesus` self-sacrifice for humanity. Therefore, it is only when we identify with the sufferings of Christ that we can merit and achieve a great redeeming value during our own sufferings and pains and fervently say, *“... not my will but yours be done.”*

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