

Acts 10.34-43

This is one of the most important passages in Acts, as it's the last evangelizing that Peter will do in this book. And it shows him slightly adapting the message that he has already preached to the Jews. We hear Peter tell the story of Luke's Gospel again – easily the fullest summary that Luke, the author, gives us – and here Luke is making clear, through Peter's speech, that healing is essentially a spiritual matter. As Peter goes on, he tells us that the message delivered by Christ, although initially delivered to the Jews, and then the Apostles, is universal in nature, and one with meaning for every single person. Suddenly the House of Israel is not the sole guardian of the mysteries of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The Christian story becomes the story of the whole world, and the preaching of the Apostles makes it simple for people to follow Christ should they wish to do so. The Risen Lord has done so much of the work. Let us complete it by walking the path he has laid for us.

Prayers to Remember

CHRIST our passover is sacrificed for us:
therefore let us keep the feast;
Not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and
wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1 Cor. 5.7.

Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more:
death hath no more dominion over him.
For in that he died, he died unto sin once:
but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin:
but alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom. 6. 9.

Christ is risen from the dead:
and become the first-fruits of them that slept.
For since by man came death:
by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die:
even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 1 Cor. 15. 20.

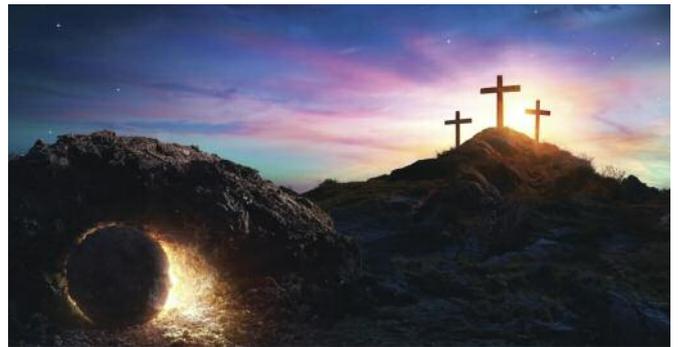
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

The Easter Anthems, Book of Common Prayer (1662)

4th April
2021

Easter Day

He is Risen!



The ancient Easter Sequence 'Christians, to the Paschal Victim' may be sung before the Gospel acclamation and alleluia verse on Easter Day and during the Octave of Easter. In the past, many feast days had their own Sequence, a poetic hymn or chant to elaborate the theological significance of the feast. Reflecting on the events of the Triduum, the three days leading up to Easter, we sing: 'Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own champion, slain, yet lives to reign.' It is this message of life gained through Christ's death which we celebrate, which is like yeast in the dough, which we share in word and deed. Mary Magdalene is the first to see the empty tomb and she takes the message of life to the disciples: 'The tomb the Living did enclose, I saw Christ's glory as he rose!' Let us share the message with the disciples and return to Galilee, our homes and workplaces, announcing the news: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia.

From the Fathers

'Now since you are celebrating the holy Pascha, you should know, brethren, what the Pascha is. Pascha means the crossing-over, and so the Festival is called by this name. For it was on this day that the Children of Israel crossed over out of Egypt, and the Son of God crossed over from this world to his Father. What gain is it to celebrate unless you imitate him whom you worship; that is, unless you cross over from Egypt, that is, from the darkness of evildoing to the light of virtue, from the love of this world to the love of your heavenly home?'

From '*The Sunday of the Resurrection*' by St Ambrose of Milan (340- 397, bishop, theologian)