

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night A/2020

I want to start this homily with the Psalm 118: 22-24, that says: “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad”.

Why shall we rejoice? Why shall we be glad? To these questions, there is only one answer: God has done something extraordinary by raising Jesus from dead. He has given us hope and assurance that, whatever might happen to us and how bad we might have it with human suffering, our destiny is tied to that of Jesus Christ. Our life will never simply end up in the grave forever, but rather it will continue beyond our physical death in order to find its rest in the heavenly kingdom.

Jesus Christ is the first that God the Father has raised from the dead. Like him, the Father will raise us with him so that where he is we too might be. We who were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. We were, indeed, buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

That is why the resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith. Tonight we celebrate the founding event of our faith. Tonight we witness to the truth that those who put Jesus to death were wrong to think that he was an impostor who pretended to talk in the name of God. No, Jesus was right. He is really the son of God, the savior of the world.

It is really true that the Father sent him into the world in order to bear our sins on the cross. His resurrection changes our fate. We are not doomed to perdition, but rather we are destined to life. Whatever might be our pains and sufferings, our hardships and difficulties, there is always a hope. Beyond the dark tunnel of our crises and diseases, there is a light. The light of Christ is bigger than our darkness.

The Gospel of tonight bears witness to the truth of the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection, indeed, has to be approached with courage and firm faith. When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb that Sabbath, they were taken by surprise: “the stone was removed from the tomb”. The angel reassured them: the crucified you are looking for has been raised just as he said. When Jesus appeared to them later on, it was in order to confirm what they already knew: He is Risen.

When tonight we receive our brothers and sisters of RCIA for the reception of different sacraments, we bring them to the light of the risen Lord. Pray for them as we all pray for one another. May the light of Christ dispel the darkness of our life so that we live as new creatures, all given to God through Jesus Christ. Amen

Ezekiel 36: 16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6: 3-11; Matthew 28: 1-10



Homily Date: April 11, 2020
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Contact: www.mbala.org
Document Name: 20200411homily.pdf