

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night A2023

From all eternity God had a plan of salvation for the world. In the name of that plan God created the world and all the creatures within it. In the name of that plan, God created Adam and Eve and entered into Covenant with Abraham and his children. In the name of that plan, when the children of Israel were slaves in Egypt God set them free. In the name of that plan, God sent Jesus to be the savior of the world. To bring that God's plan to fulfillment and save the world, Jesus accepted to die on the cross. That's the highlight from the story of salvation that the Scriptures give us as the Church keeps vigil on this Holy Night.

Tonight we celebrate a unique event that has changed the history of the world and the destiny of human race, the resurrection of Jesus. The life of Jesus did not end up on the cross or in the grave. The stings of death did not keep indefinitely Jesus captive in its abyss. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead; he is alive.

This is the night when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious from the dead. This is a night when things of heaven are wed to those of earth and divine to the human. This is the night of which it is written: "The night shall be as bright as day" (Ps 139), full of grace and gladness.

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, history would have been talking about him as we do about the important people who have marked world history. But, that would have been but a chapter in the history books, without more. If tonight you are here and millions of people throughout the world are gathering and praising God for the gift of life he has given us in his son Jesus, it is because Jesus Christ is alive.

The resurrection of our Lord gives meaning to our lives and to everything else we do in this world. In the middle of difficulties and suffering of this world, it revives our hope and reassures our expectations that, with God at our side, tomorrow will be better than today. The resurrection of Jesus gives us the courage to confront the present and the audacity to hope for the future. The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that we are created for more than what we can see now, more than what we live now, more than what we do now. There is a light beyond the tunnel, the light of the risen Christ, the light that gave courage to the pious women to go to the tomb and realize that Christ is risen.

Tonight we receive our brothers and sisters from RCIA for the reception of different sacraments. Let us welcome them to the company of the Church, to companionship with Jesus and with all of us who make up the Body of Christ. Let us bring them to the light of the Risen Lord. Let us pray for them and 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. May we be the witnesses of the Risen Christ to our brothers and sisters!

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



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