

EASTER SUNDAY

OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

St. John 20:1-9

Today is the great festival of the Church: the summit of the year and the source of all solemnities, feasts and memorials. Today is the (vigil of vigils) Sunday of Sundays. The breaking of dawn and the in-breaking of the sun's light is as nothing compared to the dawn of eternal life that pierced the darkness of death.

At the death of the Lord on the Cross the sky grew dark as the sun refused to shine—dimming its great light in obeisance to the extinguishing of the greatest light. That light descended into the darkness of hell to suffer the torment of the alienation of God's love so that by His faith, hope and love He might draw all together and raise them from the depths of hell to the glories of heaven, whose gates, by His passion and death, were opened for the first time.

The love and grace of God that had strained against the gates of paradise, awaiting the sacrifice of sacrifices, poured out as the gates opened over the earth; a new flood, but not of destruction but of salvation. The fruit of the tree of life that had caused death to Adam and Eve and all men and women is now the bread and wine that is the Body and Blood of Christ that gives life to all who believe. The pride of Adam has been transformed by the humility of Jesus, the disobedience of Eve has been replaced by the obedience of Mary. The demand for the sacrifice of Abraham's son, Isaac, is fulfilled in the sacrifice of God's son, Jesus. The Law of Moses is fulfilled in the Law of Love, and the yearning of the prophets is satisfied by the life of Christ. And the great stone that sealed the death of Jesus has been rolled back to give way to the life of Christ, for not even the mountains could hold the love He bore for His Father and for us.

All the hearts of men that had turned to stone cracked as the rock of the tomb opened up to the sacred heart of the Saviour.

Without the passion and death of Christ there would have been no resurrection. Without Holy Thursday and Good Friday there would have been no Easter Sunday. The suffering and death of Christ was transformed into the resurrection. From that moment you and I can say without doubt that nothing is impossible. Whether despair enslaves us or pain chokes the life from us, nothing anymore can separate us from the love of God. We will suffer and we will die but we will not remain dead forever. Suffering and death are no longer an end in themselves but a means to an end, and that the power of God is greater than any power on earth or under the earth. The cosmic battle that waged between good and evil was fought out in the life of Christ. At the crucifixion evil shot its silver bullet and brought about the death of Christ, but at the resurrection the power of Satan was shown to be as nothing against the love of God.

The resurrection was a moment in time that transcended all time, reaching back to the beginning of creation and reaching forward to the end of time, so that in the lifting up of Christ all things would be drawn to Him.