

Reflection on Easter Sunday

First Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Gospel: John 20:1-9

In the last month or so, every day we turn on the TV we hear about the virus. We see a disturbing, almost hourly count of people infected and those who have died. It is like an invisible monster lurking around us. We don't know if it is in our car, house, or even in us. It is just scary if we think about it too much. We do have to put it in perspective though and say to ourselves, what are the chances of dying from the virus? According to statnews.com if you are younger than 64 the average is .5% and if you are older than 64 the average is 2.7%. With that said, we still need to be cautious and protect ourselves. We pray for the health experts who are working around-the-clock on vaccines so we don't have to go through this again and can return to our normal lives.

Since this virus is unseen and can really hurt us if we are not careful, I think we can compare it with the devil and sin. The devil is lurking around unseen causing havoc in our own lives and in the world. When we fall and let him influence us, we sin. Like the virus, sin can hurt us, and without help from God, it can kill us. That death can be a devastating blow and could separate us from God forever! So, on that happy note, hope you have a blessed Easter. Hope to see you soon. God bless!

But wait! (like an infomercial would say), there's more to the story!
Thank God!

We have Good News! In today's Gospel Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty. She runs to get Peter and John to see the tomb. It was empty, and John believed. The Tomb couldn't contain God; powerful people couldn't contain God! Jesus conquers death and is victorious. Jesus wins. We win. God triumphs over evil. Our sins are forgiven.

Good triumphs over evil!
Love triumphs over hatred!
Life triumphs over death!
Hope triumphs over despair!
Satan who is all false, full of empty promises, loses!
Jesus, who is the only way, who is all truth, full of life, wins!

In other words, Jesus is our ultimate Vaccine for sin, worry and fear. When we know we have a vaccine, we feel safer, more confident, and stronger. Our worry decreases and the fullness of life increases. How can we have the fullness of life, when worry settles in and takes away our peace? We receive the ultimate Vaccine at our Baptism where we receive a “shot” of the Holy Spirit and become a child of God.

Please treat this most holy day with celebration and confidence in our Resurrected Lord who nailed death and sin to the cross and rose from the dead, so we could rise with him to a fullness of life now and for eternal life – life with our Lord F-O-R-E-V-E-R!

Let us continue to pray for a vaccine for this virus so we can all be safe and return to our normal lives. At the same time, let us be thankful that we have the ultimate Vaccine in Our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, I can actually say, have a blessed Easter! Hope to see you very soon.

Also, let us continue to pray for those infected with this virus and all those who are affected indirectly – especially our healthcare workers, cleaners, and all those who are considered “necessary” workers. We humbly ask, Lord, for those of us out of work, that we may safely return to work very soon. May God protect you and bless you. Amen.

God bless,
Fr. Mark Speitel