

2020 April 12

Resurrection of the Lord - Easter Vigil

Readings

First: Genesis 1.1-2-2, "So God created human beings in his image." (1.27)

Psalm 104, "Bless the Lord, O my soul." (1a)

Or Psalm 33, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (12a)

Second: Genesis 22.1-18, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." (8a)

Psalm 16, "You show me the path of life." (11a)

Third: Exodus 14.15-31; 15.20, 15.1, "The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground." (14.22a)

Psalm: Exodus 15.1-7, 17-18, "Your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy." (6b)

Fourth: Isaiah 54.5-14, "For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you." (7)

Psalm 30, "O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol" (3a)

Fifth: Isaiah 55.1-11, "I will make with you an everlasting covenant." (3b)

Psalm: Isaiah 12.2-3, 4-6, "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." (3)

Sixth: Baruch 3.9-15, 32-4.4, "If you had walked in the way of God, you would be living in peace forever." (3.13)

Psalm 19, "The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart." (8a)

Seventh: Ezekiel 36.16-28, "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you." (26a)

Psalm 42&43, "When shall I come and behold the face of God?" (42.2b)

Or Psalm 51, "Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me." (11)

Eighth: Romans, 6.3-11, "If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him." (8)

Psalm 118- Solemn Alleluia, "O Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good." (1)

Gospel: Luke 24.1-12, "Why do you look for the living among the dead." (5b)

Victory through death!

On this vigil night, when we expect and celebrate the victorious Resurrection of Jesus, we have the entire story of salvation in nutshell recounted through the eight plus readings and the psalms. The whole narrative is a victory song. The whole humanity in those times has been waiting for the experience of such a story because life for every human being was a prolonged death experience from which they needed liberation. Christ's resurrection, which was a conquest and victory over death and sin, restored to humanity hope, which had almost vanished from their lives. The so-called living humanity of today too is in need of an enlivening message, a soothing touch, and whisper of hope and a resurrection experience.

Ever since Christ's death and resurrection were proclaimed the world has been no more the same. We are already initiated into a new world, a new life. The more each of us can live this resurrection, this victory, this hope in our life, the more we are instruments of God in the world to make life better for every human on earth. We are invited by God to partner with him to redeem the world and carry and merge it with the kingdom of God.

The world need to realize the consolation from God proclaimed by Isaiah, "*For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you.*" (Isaiah 54.7) The world needs such a gathering and the feeling of the embrace of God. We who keep this long vigil and go through the experience of that gathering of God should take this divine consolation to the wounded world. We need to extend this moment of healing, this time of consolation and this fire of joy, peace and happiness, and reach them to as many as possible. They may be a neighbor, a shut-in, a senior, a child which is not properly cared for, one sick in the hospital, one who cares for the sick, one who brings us our morning news, the cab driver who takes us around, etc.

The world does not need any more a dead Jesus; it needs a living one, one who lives and moves among humanity, the one who heals the wounds, who proclaims repentance and forgives sin, who declares the acceptable time of God, and who redeems humanity and takes it to everlasting glory. We should not keep him any more in the tomb, but must carry him in our heart and on our lips, and give him to the wounded world that he may resuscitate it forever. You and I are called, anointed and sent for this mission, to make the risen Christ walk, speak, heal, and enliven the people over there, in our streets, and in our homes. ***He has risen! Alleluia!***

Fr. George

Easter Vigil celebration at 6.00 p.m. Saturday and will be live on face book,
facebook.com/stpaulspei

Also available on our website, www.stpaulsparish.ca

Fr. George

10th April 2020.