

Sunday, April 20, 2025 – The Resurrection of our Lord

First Reading (alternate): Isaiah 65:17-25

In the resurrection of Jesus, the powers of the age to come have broken into and are active in our present age. Therefore, we can speak of being able to experience and enjoy in part now the joy and blessings that we will experience in full in heaven. Paul will pick up on this language and concept in the Second Reading.

17 - I am about to create new heavens and a new earth.

19 - No more shall the sound of weeping be heard in (Jerusalem) or the cry of distress.

20 - No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime.

Cf. Revelation 21: 1 – Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

Revelation 21: 4 – God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.

22-23 - Like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity;

for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well.

The curse of Genesis 3: 16 will be reversed – I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing.

24 - Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

Have you ever experienced God's answering you even before you called out to Him?

25 - The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox;

but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain.

Cf. Isaiah 11: 6 – The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid.

The promise of Genesis 3: 15 has been fulfilled - The woman's offspring will strike the serpent's head, and the serpent will strike the woman's offspring's heel.

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

16 - The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

17 - I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

When have you come closest to dying?

What and when has been for you your closest encounter with death?

Cf. spring of 1979 Holy Week youth backpack trip

22 - The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This verse is quoted frequently in the New Testament - as in Matthew 21: 42 (during Holy Week after parable of the unfaithful tenants), Acts 4: 11 (in Peter's sermon before the Jewish Sanhedrin/Council), 1 Peter 2: 7

24 - This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

What a great thing to say at the beginning of every day.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

20 - Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

21-22 - Since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

23-25 - But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

26 - The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Death is still an enemy, but death is a defeated enemy

Verse 55 – O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?

Cf. D-Day

Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

*In Luke's account we see **four responses to the empty tomb.***

Perplexed

1-4 - On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this . . .

Terrified

4-5 - Suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.

Disbelief

5-11 - The men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

Amazed

12 - But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

*Fortunately, the Gospel writer John tells of a **fifth response – Belief***

John 20: 8 – Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed.