

St. Louis Catholic Church

Easter Sunday

"Seek what is above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, think of what is above, not what is on earth." These words from St. Paul to the Colossians are great expressions of what Easter is about. The stone has been removed, the cloths are left behind and Jesus is gone. He has not been taken by robbers, but lifted up to new life. He is raised and alive. Death is conquered. Death is now seen in the same way as we see birth. There are pains but it is soon forgotten and we rejoice at new life.

Christ appears to the women and the disciples on several occasions. He is at first not recognized. He is a gardener, a ghost, a wise man on the road to Emmaus and a stranger on the Sea of Tiberius who tells the fishing disciples to throw their nets to the other side. They all soon realize it is Jesus. There is something different. They soon know from His wounds that it is Christ. They know in the breaking of bread and at the miraculous catch of fish that it is Christ. Mary knows by the sound of His voice when He says "Mary".

He is the same yet different. He was dead yet He is alive. He has a glorified body. It will never weep, thirst, suffer, hunger or die again. I love the thought because it tells us that, in Paul's words to the Philippians, we too will be given a new body patterned after the glorified body of Jesus. That is hope. That is good news.

Easter is a great day of rejoicing. But it shouldn't be just about a future hope. Yet it is that. It does give us pause to smile and know that those dear ones in our life are not dead but alive and with the Lord. They are home and we will see them again.

Easter also is about new life today. We all have stones that keep us buried in tombs. We are lonely, sick, frustrated, weak, addicted, struggling and sinful. We all have some things that are keeping us from being all that we can be. Some of it can't be changed but our dealing with things can change. Some of it can be changed when we try, seek help, admit the problem and allow the Lord to work in us. He can remove the stone and let us free today. We can start over. It happened to Levi, the woman of Samaria, the Royal Official's son, the women in adultery, the blind man, the mute, lame and possessed. God touched them and changed them.

They were made new. They were brought back to something better. He can remove our tombs today. Today is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad! The Lord is risen! My Lord and my God!

Happy and Holy Easter--Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

God Bless,
Msgr. John McArthur