

## Commentary on the Readings for March 31, 2024

### The Resurrection of the Lord

The readings for today are somewhat anti-climactic if you attended the Easter Vigil Mass of the Resurrection on Saturday. Nevertheless, the joy of this great feast is evident in all the readings. We should be overflowing with joy and enthusiasm, knowing that our salvation and redemption have been accomplished through the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus, all the readings assume that we know what has happened in Jerusalem more than 2000 years ago. So, place yourself in the picture and become one of those in the celebration.

The **First Reading**, from the **Acts of the Apostles (10:34-43)**, Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit and a renewed sense of confidence, stands up boldly and retells the story of Jesus' public life and death and what it means to all mankind. We should read this passage every day of our lives and give thanks to God for His love, which made it possible.

The **Responsorial Psalm (118:1-23)** is an important liturgical poem sung at the Jewish Seder or Passover Meal. It recalls how the Israelites implored the God of Israel for help during a time of suffering and how God came to their rescue. The Psalmist then goes on to offer praises of thanksgiving acknowledging God's benevolence.

In the **Second Reading**, from ***St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians (3:1-4)***, Paul is speaking about our Baptism being a form of spiritual death and resurrection where we die to all forms of sin and rise with Christ to a new life—the Christian life. Think of this as if you have just put on a new suit or dress. You don't go out and work in the garden or clean the garage in a new suit or dress. Instead, you want to be seen in some festive way, alive and joyful. The "Christian Way of Life" is special and we should protect it from the dirt and grime of sin.

The **Gospel Reading** for today is from the ***Gospel of John (20:1-9)***. This, as we said before, might be anti-climactic; however, it tells us that even the apostles had a difficult time in understanding and accepting something so great, so unique, as the Resurrection of the person they called "Lord." And so it is with us today! We might be tempted to doubt this or some other great event in the life of Jesus Christ just as Thomas and some of the other disciples did. However, don't let doubts linger, do something about it. Then, when the light of understanding goes on, the spirit of Jesus will arise in your heart just like on the first Easter Sunday.

In addition to celebrating this great day with family and friends, set aside a few minutes to spend time with Jesus in prayer. Thank Him for His love, which made our salvation possible and meditate for a moment on the fact that it was our sins, collectively, that caused the unspeakable suffering of Jesus Christ; but it was the divine love of God for His Son and for all mankind that is reflected in the *Resurrection*. Our hope is that someday we will be resurrected in the same way at the end of time. Something to think about during your prayer time this week!

**MFB**