



WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, CYCLE A

Fr. David Rosenberg

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"...Christ my hope is arisen; to Galilee he goes before you; there you will see him." Matt 28:7

"As the first day of the week was dawning" I walked amidst the rolling fields, gazing east. In the distance I could see a pond with misty fog, like the Holy Spirit, hovering about. And just beyond the pond, the entrance to a small cave, most likely a prayer and healing sanctuary carved out by our ancient Native American ancestors, so folk lore has it. But this morning, on this glorious Easter morning, there is a glow about this cave. I am reminded of a folk tale, *"Sun, Son"* that tells two points of view, one the farmer's, and one the son's. The son sees on the mystical horizon, emerging from the cave, the Risen Christ, surrounded by angels and saints. But the farmer's perspective is quite pragmatic. *"It's the sun, son, shining on the water, merely refracting the light of dawn, projecting a mirage's tale."* But the son's vision is not to be repressed. He is experiencing the powerful, mystical encounter with the Risen Christ. On this Easter Sunday, I, too, am feeling the healing rays emanating from the hands of the Risen One, breaking through my pragmatic day.

Jesus promised me he would come back, and I am keeping the light on in my ever-fickle heart for him. *"I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."* John 14:3 He sends forth from the spiritual Pool of Siloam those that have been blinded by the earthly sun, but by grace have been *washed by the blood of the lamb*. Now they see the mystical vision and are sent to the rest of us to be witnesses of hope; hope for wretched souls like me that cannot fathom the power of his mercy.

But on this day, astonishing as it may seem, He comes to me. Hand under my downcast chin, he gently lifts my sorrowful face, commanding me to make eye contact with this One with whom I am too ashamed to face. Sensing my reticence, he asks me to sit in this early spring laden field, as if to say, *"I've got all the time we need..."* I cry, *"Lord, I am not worthy."* Even though just a few days ago I cried out with the Good Thief, as he hung dying on the cross, *"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."* Luke 23:42 But now, face to face with the Risen One, those words are hollow, and I am wracked with sobbing and tears. Jesus caresses my tears, and whispers, *"When it is your time, I will come and lift you up, and carry you to the bosom of Abraham, where all tears will be washed away, all sorrow turned to joy, all suffering blessed by My Father, transformed into a Cup of Salvation. And know this my son, I would rather remain here with you in this land of suffering, than be in heaven without you."*

Take all the time you need this glorious Easter Week to ponder this miracle. Remember His words, *"I've got all the time in the world, just ask for it."*

*"...Christ my hope is arisen; to Galilee he goes before you."
Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning! Amen. Alleluia.*

excerpt from Easter Sequence - Victimæ paschali laudes:
the Church's worship during the Easter Octave

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.
And behold, there was a great earthquake;
for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven,
approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.
His appearance was like lightning
and his clothing was white as snow.
The guards were shaken with fear of him
and became like dead men.

Then the angel said to the women in reply,

“Do not be afraid!

I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.

He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.

Come and see the place where he lay.

Then go quickly and tell his disciples,

*‘He has been raised from the dead,
and he is going before you to Galilee;
there you will see him.’*

Behold, I have told you.”

Then they went away quickly from the tomb,
fearful yet overjoyed,
and ran to announce this to his disciples.

And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them.
They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.

Then Jesus said to them,

“Do not be afraid.

*Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee,
and there they will see me.”*

The Gospel of the Lord