

HE IS RISEN!

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43; Col. 3: 1-4; Jn. 20: 1-18

HE IS RISEN! After more than six weeks of Lent and the darkness of Good Friday, we have emerged into the light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the Psalmist put it: *'This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!'*

Early on Sunday morning, after Jesus had been crucified and buried in a tomb by Joseph of Arimathea, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb looking for Jesus. She found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb and, when she looked in, she saw that Jesus had disappeared! Probably, she thought that Jesus' body had been stolen by grave robbers or Jesus' enemies.

While she was crying at the thought that Jesus' body had been stolen, Jesus approached her and asked: 'Whom are you looking for?' This was a critical question and it is a question for every one of us to ponder as well. 'Whom am I looking for?'

Most of us spend a good part of our lives looking for something or some one that will make us happy. Perhaps, if we have a relationship with someone, we will be happy. Maybe, if we buy something expensive or achieve something special, we will be happy. Particularly in the past year of pandemic, our lives have been subjected to total upheaval and shrouded in darkness, sadness, disenchantment and feelings of abandonment. We have been like Mary, in the darkness of Good Friday and looking for a light; something to dispel the darkness.

St. Augustine put it this way: 'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.' Mary was looking for Jesus. After much pondering and searching, we may find that it is Jesus that we have been looking for also.

In the First Reading, Peter recaps the life and the ministry of Jesus and reminds us of some reasons that we are searching for Jesus, even though we may not realize it. He said: *'He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.'* By His resurrection, Jesus changed the prospects for our lives forever.

Even though there may be darkness in our lives, St. Paul said in the Second Reading: *'Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.'* Our lives are 'hidden in Christ'. Therefore, we share in His resurrection and we know that we can follow Him into eternity.

From time to time, we may be asked by some people to explain the resurrection. In truth, we cannot. We did not witness it. No one saw it. We only have the words of the four evangelists, sacred tradition, and the teachings of the Church. Ultimately, it is a mystery. But in our lives of faith, we know that HE IS RISEN! and the world has never been the same.