



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

Easter Sunday

Rejoice heavenly powers

Readings: Acts 10:34, 37-43, Ps 117, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20: 1-9

Rejoice heavenly powers, sing choirs of angels, exult all creation around God's throne. Christ has risen. Glory fills you. Darkness vanishes forever.

That is the great Easter hymn we have just heard sung. It is the supreme moment of our Faith. It is the truth to which all other revelation moves and from which all hope of eternity flows.

We meet – not because we are religious.

Not because we like a bit of ritual.

Not to celebrate an idea.

Not to rehearse and preserve a bit of our culture.

We meet in the pre-dawn dark of Easter Day because of a person.

Because of a truth so stupendous that we can only gaze in wonder and thanksgiving. Because in this very night the destiny of every child of man was changed.

We meet because, in this moment we know again, as if for the first time,

the purpose of our creation and the end for which we were fashioned.

At the heart of everything is Jesus Christ, Son of Mary, Son Of God.
In Him the God of all, the creator of the Cosmos, has chosen to dwell.
In this moment in the history of Man, the very I AM of God, the Logos,
the Word which brought all things into being, has manifested from the
Annunciation at Nazareth down the dusty years to the hilltop of Calvary,
in our flesh and blood.

Taking on our life, purging our sin, defeating our death on the Cross,
Jesus, true God and True Man, has transformed our future from the dust
of death to the heights of glory in the eternity of Paradise with God.

Christ has broken down the doors of death and lifted Adam and Eve,
man and woman, out of the shadows, out of the exile from God and
lifted us up to the true inheritance of the sons and daughters of God.

When we come to celebrate the first Mass of Easter, the Mass of the
Resurrection which informs and runs like a golden thread through every
Mass, the Holy Spirit, from the eternity of God, makes present in our
time, our little local NOW, the sacrifice of Calvary and the glory of the
Risen Lord.

When we receive that bread and wine, now transformed into the Body
and Blood of Christ, the Living One, we take into ourselves the mystery
of our salvation, what St. Ignatius of Antioch calls, 'The Medicine of
Immortality'.

By the power of the Holy Spirit we receive the transubstantiated reality of God. God, who has lived our human life and redeemed it from sin and death, through the Resurrection and the Mass comes to dwell in us in absolute reality. What does this mean?

Our first Holy Father, St Peter, tells us that we shall share in His divine nature – that is become eternal. St. Athanasius said that the Son of God became Man that men might become sons of God. It is a consistent theme that runs through the writings of the early fathers of the Church.

In Christ our destiny is union with God the Father in Heaven for all eternity. That divine nature that Satan sneered at in the Garden of Eden where Man turned away in disobedience from the Tree of Life is now gloriously rediscovered on Calvary's Tree and on the altar of sacrifice in His Church and in the miracle of the Third Day and the life of His people which is both now and forevermore.

Rejoice.

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