



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

Easter Vigil – Year C

Rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice!

Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:2, Ps 103, Genesis 22:1-18, Ps 15, Exodus 14:15-15:1, Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18, Isaiah 54:5-14, Ps 29, Isaiah 55:1-11, Ps 12, Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4, Ps 18, Ezekiel 36:16-28, Pss 41, 42, Romans 6:3-11, Ps 117, Luke 24: 1-12

Rich and overflowing with the Word of God; shot through with praise and glory: enlightened both by burning candles and the Divine Wisdom, the Easter Vigil needs no homily of Man. Or if it does you have already had it in that chant of salvation history that opened our worship tonight – the Exultet. The Liturgy is sufficient of itself. It proclaims the completeness of the Gospel.

As the light of the Risen Christ, the conqueror of sin and death, is lifted high and our little flames are kindled from the great fire of His divine life, we are exhorted to join the powers of Heaven and the choirs of angels and archangels andREJOICE !

This is a rejoicing that is not temporary or transient. (A man may leap up and down in a ridiculous ecstasy when his team wins the Cup – knowing full well that next year someone else will hold it aloft.) The Victory we proclaim tonight is an eternal rejoicing.

Heaven and earth are joined in the exultant song of unending triumph.
The long exile of sinful Man is ended in this night. Children of the Fall we have, in Christ, become sons and daughters of the Eternal Father.
Stumbling wanderers in the Wilderness we have, led by the pillar of fire, evaded the Cross-routed enemy and entered the Promised Land.
Heirs of mortality and death we have, in Christ, inherited life eternal.
Our very follies, that 'happy fault', have become the mainspring of our redemption.

That 'necessary sin of Adam' has won for us so great a Redeemer. This is the apogee of God's love.

Out of that love He has humbled Himself to share our humanity, to share the sorrows of our suffering and our dying. He has entered the dungeons of death to break down the very gates of Hell, which lie shattered, cruciform, beneath His feet. He has begun the great liberation of Man. He has raised the sons of Adam and the daughters of Eve from the darkness of eternal loss and ruin into His own unending light.

Rejoice, little brothers and sisters of Christ. Today we celebrate the final victory, the triumph of the Risen Lord and the glorious promise of our salvation.

And again I say, REJOICE.