

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter
April 4, 2021

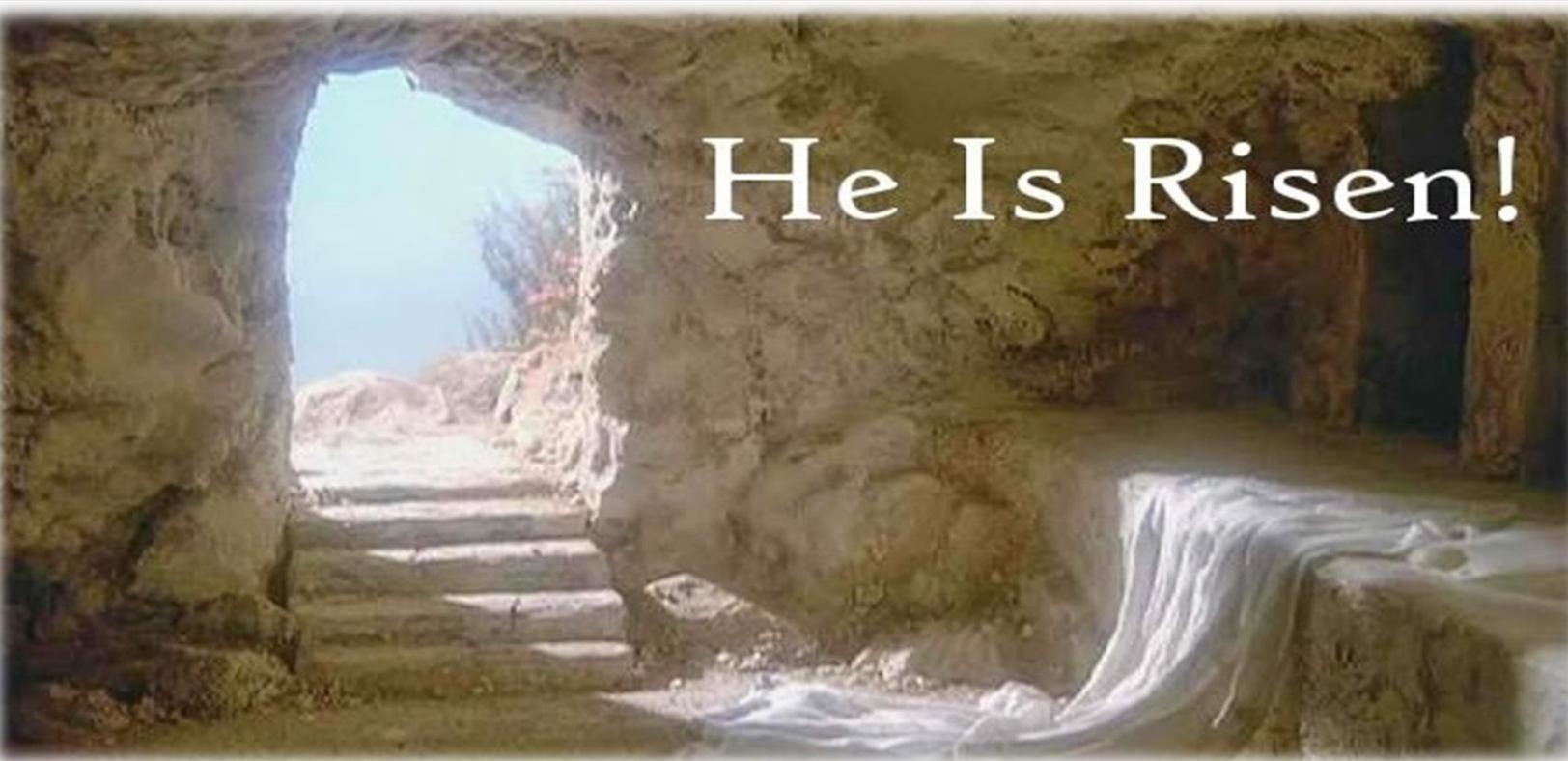
My Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the greatest discovery in the history of the world. Today we celebrate a discovery far more important than the discovery of fire, or the atom, or the cell, or germs, or penicillin, or vaccines, or electricity, or transistors, or the computer chip. Today we celebrate the discovery of an Empty Tomb. The Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is confirmation of His triumph over sin and death. The Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is confirmation that Heaven is within our reach—through, with, and in Him who has conquered death. The Empty Tomb then becomes our hope and our hope for all who we love. Today and every day for the rest of your lives, may the knowledge of the empty tomb bring you joy and peace.

If I may, I would like to thank everyone for your participation in our Holy Week and Easter Liturgies—especially those recently vaccinated. It is so good to see you again and it was so good to be together!!!! I would also like to thank our Deacons, staff, and volunteers for all you did to make these Liturgies so beautiful. Lastly, on behalf of our staff, I would like to thank all of you for your continued generosity and especially for your generosity in our Easter Collection. Your generosity is key to keeping our parish family together and provides us with the resources to continue to proclaim the good news of the Empty Tomb!

Happy Easter to all!

Fr. Michael J Pawelko



He Is Risen!

From an Easter homily by an ancient author Christ the source of resurrection and life

Saint Paul rejoices in the knowledge that spiritual health has been restored to the human race. *Just as death entered the world through Adam, so life has been given back to the world through Christ. And again: The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven and is heavenly.*

He adds the following: *As we have borne the image of the earthly man, (that is, the image of human nature grown old in sin) so let us bear the image of the heavenly man: that is, human nature raised up, redeemed, restored and purified in Christ. We must hold fast to the salvation we have received. As the Apostle himself says: Christ is the beginning (that is, the source of resurrection and life); therefore those who belong to Christ (those who model their lives on his purity) will be secure in the hope of his resurrection and of enjoying with him the glory promised in heaven. As our Lord himself said in the gospel: Whoever follows me will not perish, but will pass from death to life.*

Thus the passion of our Savior is the salvation of mankind. The reason why he desired to die for us was that he wanted us who believe in him to live forever. In the fullness of time it was his will to become what we are, so that we might inherit the eternity he promised and live with him forever.

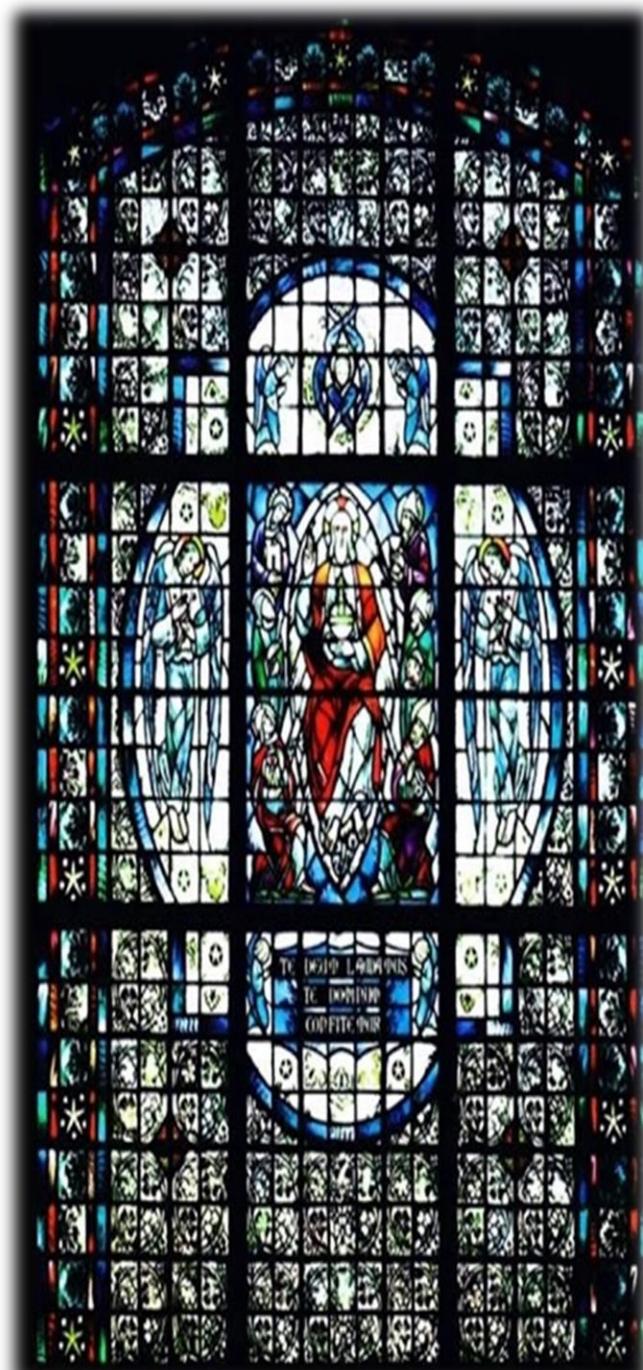
Here, then, is the grace conferred by these heavenly mysteries, the gift which Easter brings, the most longed-for feast of the year; here are the beginnings of creatures newly formed: children born from the life-giving font of holy Church, born anew with the simplicity of little ones, and crying out with the evidence of a clean conscience. Chaste fathers and inviolate mothers accompany this new family, countless in number, born to new life through faith. As they emerge from the grace-giving womb of the font, a blaze of candles burns brightly beneath the tree of faith. The Easter festival brings the grace of holiness from heaven to men. Through the repeated celebration of the sacred mysteries they receive the spiritual nourishment of the sacraments. Fostered at the very heart of holy Church, the fellowship of one community worships the one God, adoring the triple name of his essential holiness, and together with the prophet sings the psalm which belongs to this yearly festival: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

And what is this day? It is the Lord Jesus Christ himself, the author of light, who brings the sunrise and the beginning of life, saying of himself: *I am the light of day; whoever walks in daylight does not stumble.* That is to say, whoever follows Christ in all things will come by this path to the throne of eternal light.

Such was the prayer Christ made to the Father while he was still on earth: *Father, I desire that where I am they also may be, those who have come to believe in me; and that as you are in me and I in you, so they may abide in us.*



An ancient Easter Hymn of praise is called the “TE DEUM.” The hymn is generally believed to come from around the fourth century and generally believed to have been composed by St. Ambrose and St. Augustine. It has been a part of the Church’s Liturgies ever since and especially part of the “Divine Office” which is prayed by priests, deacons, and religious daily. I hope that you find inspiration in its words:



You are God, we praise you:
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world, the holy Church acclaims you:
Father of majesty unbounded,
Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
And the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the King of Glory
The eternal Son of the Father.
When you became man to set us free,
You did not spurn the Virgin’s womb.
You overcame the sting of death,
And opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God’s right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
Bought with the price of your own blood,
And bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.
Govern and uphold them now and always
Day by day we bless you.
We praise your name forever.
Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.
Have mercy on us, Lord have Mercy
Lord, show us your Love and Mercy
for we put our trust in you.
In you, Lord, is our hope:
and we shall never hope in vain.
[Amen.]

Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of the Lord

The Mass of Easter Day

Reading 1: [Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43 \(42ABC\)](#)

Peter proceeded to speak and said: “You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Responsorial Psalm: [Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23](#)

R. (24) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. OR Alleluia.

- ▶ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.” **R.**
- ▶ “The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; the right hand of the LORD is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.” **R.**
- ▶ The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.**R.**

Reading 2: [Colossian 3:1-4](#) OR [1 Corinthians 5:6b-8](#)

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.



Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of the Lord

OR [1 Corinthians 5:6b-8](#)

Brothers and sisters: Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough? Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Sequence

Victimae paschali laudes

► Christians, to the Paschal Victim Offer your thankful praises! A Lamb the sheep redeems; Christ, who only is sinless, Reconciles sinners to the Father. Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous: The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal. Speak, Mary, declaring What you saw, wayfaring. “The tomb of Christ, who is living, The glory of Jesus’ resurrection; Bright angels attesting, The shroud and napkin resting. Yes, 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.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

► Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed; let us then feast with joy in the Lord.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: [John 20:1-9](#)

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

