

THE UPPER ALDE BENEFICE

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Prayer.

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

Gospel.

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. Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that 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 understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned home. (S. John 20:1-10).

Today we stand, with Peter and John and Mary, at the entrance of the empty tomb; with them, we wonder what it means. The Christ who challenges us to love one another is risen and walks among us! All that he taught - compassion, love, forgiveness, reconciliation, sincerity, selflessness for the sake of others - is vindicated and affirmed in the Father raising him from the dead. The empty tomb should not only console and elate us, it should challenge us to embrace the life of the Gospel. With Easter faith, perhaps at this time more so than any in recent history, we can awaken the promise of the empty tomb in every place and moment we encounter on our journey through life.

Prayer

Jesus, our Lord and God, has risen from the tomb! During the past few days, we have seen his suffering and death. We have known the agony experienced by his mother and those who loved him most. This year, because of Covid-19, we have all known a Holy Week unlike any other. Some of us will, in our own lives, have been with Jesus on the cross and with Mary at its foot.

Today, however, we celebrate new life. Calvary was not the end but, rather, the beginning of new life. Today is a day for hope. There will be sunshine and gladness in our hearts again. The risen Jesus will walk with us in our present and into our future, whatever it might hold - and so we bring our prayers before our Heavenly Father, knowing that God's love is beyond anything we can ever imagine.

And on a lighter note...

A parishioner was coming out of church one Easter Sunday morning and the parish priest was standing at the door as he always was to shake hands. He grabbed the parishioner by the hand and pulled him aside. The priest said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" The parishioner replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Father." The priest questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" The parishioner whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."