

## BULLETIN EASTER SUNDAY 2017

HAPPY EASTER! The Lord is Risen!!

### **HOMILY**

Let's take a look at some of our Easter Symbols.

**EASTER LILLY:** White is the color of "purity." The white lily represents the clean, pure life that comes to us through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**LAMB:** The lamb sacrificed on the first Passover has been interpreted by Christians as Jesus, the Lamb of God, who was crucified on the cross as a sacrifice for us. The blood of the Lamb is an antidote for snake bites. Venom is poisonous to the body like sin is poisonous to the spirit. The Lamb of God, Jesus, shed his blood as an antidote for our sin.

**EGG:** the ordinary hard-boiled egg represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection. The first Easter eggs were red paschal eggs.

**CHICK:** The chick, hatching out of the egg, symbolizes new life or re-birth.

**PRETZEL:** Around the year 500 A.D., during Lent, a monk was making his special bread and when he had some scraps left over, he rolled them and rapped them around each other, forming the first pretzel. The twisted shape symbolizes arms crossed in prayer. The three holes are for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The monks used the pretzel with the other monks to remind them that prayer was a major part of Lent.

**BASKET:** The invention of the pretzel led to the first Easter Basket. Easter Eggs were later rested on each loop of the large pretzel and were then hidden in barns for children to find. Because the eggs were hidden in barns, the monks gave the children baskets with hay in them to carry the newly found eggs.

**BUNNY:** As we all know, rabbits are prolific/high-volume procreators and they are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life. New Life is a symbol of Easter because Jesus gave us new life when he sacrificed himself on the cross for us. The Rabbit's helplessness may also represent the helplessness of man whose only defense is Christ.

**BUTTERFLY:** The three stages of a Butterfly's life-cycle symbolizes the life of Jesus Christ. The first stage is the Caterpillar, which represents His life on Earth. The

second phase begins from the cocoon stage or tomb, portraying the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. In the third stage the beautiful butterfly, with the power of flight, emerges from the apparently lifeless cocoon, representing His raising from the dead in a glorified body: what could be a more perfect symbol of the Resurrection than that? Happy Easter (404 Words)!

## **BLESSING WATER**

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

"Lord our God, in your mercy be present to your people's prayers, and, for us who recall the wondrous work of our creation and the still greater work of our redemption, graciously X bless this water. For you created water to make the fields fruitful and to refresh and cleanse our bodies. You also made water the instrument of your mercy: for through water you freed your people from slavery and quenched their thirst in the desert; through water the Prophets proclaimed the new covenant you were to enter upon with the human race; and last of all, through water, which Christ made holy in the Jordan, you have renewed our corrupted nature in the bath of regeneration. Therefore, may this water be for us a memorial of the Baptism we have received, and grant that we may share in the gladness of our brothers and sisters who at Easter have received their Baptism. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen."

This beautiful prayer would appear to be a relatively new composition although inspired by ancient models found in sixth- and seventh-century manuscripts.

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

Intercessions for Easter Vigil and Sunday

### **Celebrant**

In the joy of the risen Lord, let us turn to the Father and ask his blessing on the world.

### **Lector**

For our Pope, that through the power of the Holy Spirit, he may lead all Christians with wisdom and courage, we pray to the Lord.

For all the bishops of the Church: may they be true apostles of the Gospel and faithful ministers in the Church, we pray to the Lord.

For all the baptized: may we bear faithful witness to Christ, the light of the world, we pray to the Lord.

For all who have never heard the Gospel: that the example of Christians may help them to know the Lord, we pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for those who have died, that they may be brought into the light of God's presence, we pray to the Lord.

In Silence let us now add our own intentions for our community and for the world.....we pray to the Lord.

### **Celebrant**

Hear our prayers, O Lord, and may the light of Christ, risen from the dead, scatter the darkness from our hearts, through the same Christ our Lord.

### **READINGS**

#### **The Resurrection of the Lord**

#### **The Mass of Easter Day**

#### **Lectionary: 42**

#### **Reading 1 ACTS 10:34A, 37-43**

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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 PS 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23**

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

or:

R. **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. **This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

"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. **This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;  
it is wonderful in our eyes.

R. **This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

### **Reading 2 COL 3:1-4**

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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.

### **Or 1 COR 5:6B-8**

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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**

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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 CF. 1 COR 5:7B-8A**

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R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**  
Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed;  
let us feast with joy in the Lord.  
R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Gospel JN 20:1-9**

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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.

### **Or MT 28:1-10**

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After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,  
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.  
And behold, there was a great earthquake;  
for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven,  
approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.  
His appearance was like lightning  
and his clothing was white as snow.  
The guards were shaken with fear of him  
and became like dead men.  
Then the angel said to the women in reply,  
"Do not be afraid!  
I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.  
He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.  
Come and see the place where he lay.  
Then go quickly and tell his disciples,  
'He has been raised from the dead,  
and he is going before you to Galilee;  
there you will see him.'

Behold, I have told you."  
Then they went away quickly from the tomb,  
fearful yet overjoyed,  
and ran to announce this to his disciples.  
And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them.  
They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.  
Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid.  
Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee,  
and there they will see me."

**Or LK 24:13-35**

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*At an afternoon or evening Mass.*

That very day, the first day of the week,  
two of Jesus' disciples were going  
to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus,  
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.  
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,  
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,  
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.  
He asked them,  
"What are you discussing as you walk along?"  
They stopped, looking downcast.  
One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,  
"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem  
who does not know of the things  
that have taken place there in these days?"  
And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"  
They said to him,  
"The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene,  
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word  
before God and all the people,  
how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over  
to a sentence of death and crucified him.  
But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel;  
and besides all this,  
it is now the third day since this took place.  
Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:  
they were at the tomb early in the morning  
and did not find his body;  
they came back and reported

that they had indeed seen a vision of angels  
who announced that he was alive.  
Then some of those with us went to the tomb  
and found things just as the women had described,  
but him they did not see."  
And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are!  
How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!  
Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things  
and enter into his glory?"  
Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,  
he interpreted to them what referred to him  
in all the Scriptures.  
As they approached the village to which they were going,  
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.  
But they urged him, "Stay with us,  
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."  
So he went in to stay with them.  
And it happened that, while he was with them at table,  
he took bread, said the blessing,  
broke it, and gave it to them.  
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,  
but he vanished from their sight.  
Then they said to each other,  
"Were not our hearts burning within us  
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"  
So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem  
where they found gathered together  
the eleven and those with them who were saying,  
"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"  
Then the two recounted  
what had taken place on the way  
and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.