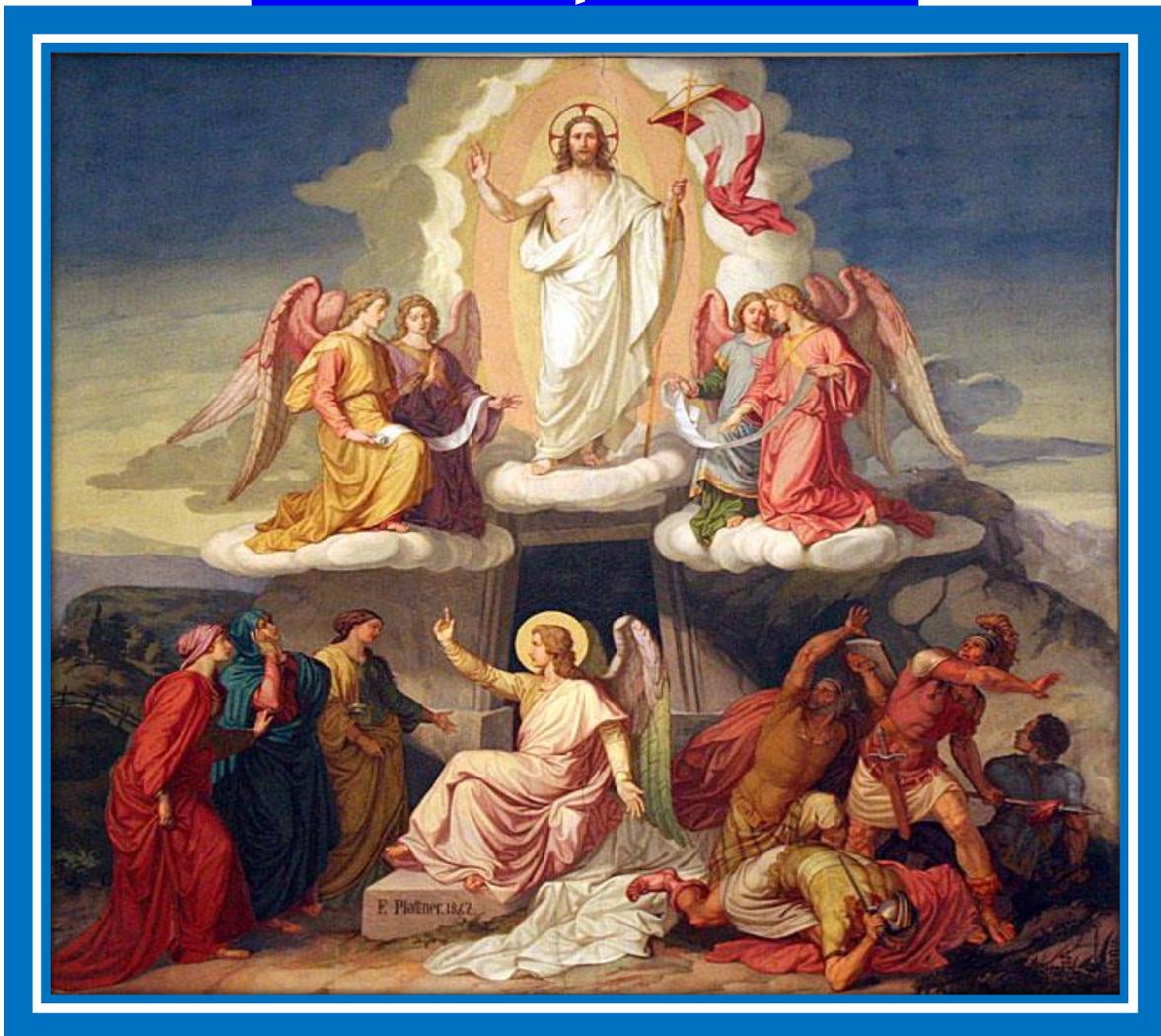


The Meditation Easter Day - A.D. 2016



Resurrection
19th century fresco
Zirl Parish Church, Austria

The Second Collect for Easter Day

O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the Cross, and by His glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy ; Grant us so to die daily from sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of His resurrection ; through the same thy Son Christ our Lord. Amen.

Light and Life Everlasting

Easter completes the mystery of Christ. “*The King of life who died deathless reigneth*” (from the *Victimae Paschali*). The death of the living God is only a passage, it is the true Passover ; he dies to live again. Death is the last effort by which He reaches His goal – that being His glorified return to the side of His Father. “*Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee.*” (St. John Ch. 17, Vs 1)

The Church lives by the Resurrection. She sings, as Mary Magdalene sung: “*Christ, my hope has risen.*” **His resurrection is our hope**, the sign of new life, a life bound by the joy of his triumph and the hope of our own triumph.

The Church has preached Easter from the very beginning! It’s the subject of St. Peter’s first discourse, and as we are told in the Acts of the Apostles, the Apostle’s doctrine was based on one text: “*this Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.*” (Acts; Ch. 2, Vs. 32.)

St. Paul’s speeches in the synagogue have only one theme: “*Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles*” (Acts; Ch. 26, Vss. 22 & 23). Paul exhorts to the skeptical Greek philosophers: “*Whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*” (Acts; Ch. 17, Vs. 31). Dragged before the Jewish High Council, he says: “*I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called to question.*” (Acts: Ch. 23, Vs. 6)

Easter is the central point of all Christian doctrine: “*And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching in vain, and your faith is also in vain.*” (I Cor. Ch. 15, Vs. 14). The good news that the Gospel brought us, is that God is our Father, and our faith in it is based on the divinity of Him Who has said: “*My Father and I are one.*” (St. John; Ch. 10, Vs. 30) and proved it by rising from the dead.

The early Christians lived in their joy of the triumph of Christ’s resurrection and their hope of rising again in Him. This was the brand that set the young Church on fire, and drove its earliest members into the arms of death by the persecutors of the early Church.

Deeply rooted in truth, elementary in its teaching of death in Christ and risen life with Him, it is an inspiration for all centuries. He who bore all our sufferings now sits at the right hand of the Father. Christ in glory is the Christ as He now is, of Whose mystical Body we are also a part. Although not yet glorified, because in our present condition it is in *Him who is glorified* that we live and move and have our being. How can that be, one might ask?

3.

Jesus said to Martha: “*I am the resurrection and the life*” Life exists in the Godhead, but God cannot rise again because He cannot die. Christ doesn’t say: “I am *your* resurrection”, but says: “I am *the* resurrection” He says so as the God-made-Man: He Who rose again could do so because He was the incarnation of the Diety. ***There is no life but in Him***, and therefore no other resurrection but His, in which we can share. This is important for the Christian to note. We live in a time when many people try to make the many religions of the world relative, commonly saying that “one is as good as the other”. If that were true, Christ would never had said that *He is the life*, but would have said; ‘ I am the life, but, so is.... and so will be....’. This certainly is a “politically incorrect” statement to make, but the truth (and the reality) is that Christ did not come into the world to be “politically correct” . . . but to disrupt it and turn the world on its head. This does not mean however, that the Christian should disparage other faiths, on the contrary; for who is to say that a person’s spiritual journey may begin in one place and during the course of their journey, come to know Jesus and develop it into the fullest sense and at a point... even if it be at death, receive Him completely? No one can know what God has in mind for his creatures, and our own journeys as members of Christ’s flock are all most of us can handle! Jesus reminds us often that we are to love one another...without conditions.

We have risen again in Christ, although we still await the day when that fact will become present and actual. It is by living a life of constant dying and resurrection that we finally rise again in Him, but we must never forget that we are already risen in the Man who rose again. This was the spirituality that the early members of the Church possessed; *the spirituality of hope and joy*.

Every day should be Easter Day for the Christian. Every event in their life should be colored by this one event worth remembering, and every circumstance considered in that perspective. Christ’s resurrection is the norm by which we must measure our every thought and feeling. We must reject, or at least regret, whatever is in us that is unworthy of one who has risen from the dead if we really desire to resemble Christ. Is such an ambition an exaggeration? St. Paul tells us: “*If ye be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*” (Colossians; Ch. 3, Vss. 1-3). Indeed. . . we are dead . . . we are risen again . . . our life is now hidden with Christ in God!

Today we see Christ as the Light of the world in the beauty of the Paschal Candle, whose “*body is of bright ivory, overlaid with sapphire blue*” (*Song of Solomon: Ch. 5, Vs. 14*). He is waiting for every one of us, offering to each, His Light.

Let us hasten unto Him . . . that we may light our tapers at His flame. Let us ask with our whole hearts that He keep the fire of His joy alive within us to light us *and others* on our way to Him. Our poor dim little tapers can’t be compared to the great and brilliant living candle that is the risen Christ. We humbly beseech His generosity, that we may be given something of His watchful and unwavering love for us! May the light that we receive from Him so shine before mankind, that we may glorify our Father, who is in heaven!

A most Blessed and Joyful Easter to All . . . **SURREXIT EST! . . . He is risen!**

From the Fathers of the Church

St. Jerome

‘...was crucified, dead and buried : He descendeth into hell ; The third day he rose again from the dead.’
- the Apostles’ Creed

“ Rejoice, ye heavens, with the fullness of joy! This day, which dawned at a tomb, shines for us brighter than the sun. Hell trembles at seeing its power broken, but even it rejoices at the sight which is granted to it. It may well leap for joy, because illuminated with the light which it has not known for so many centuries, it can breathe again in the profound darkness. O Wonderful light, which shone in a clear sky, clothing with its brightness those who lay among the red flames of the portals of death...

When Christ went down to hell, that eternal night shone again in splendor, the shrill laments were stilled, the chains of the condemned fell broken from them . . . Who is this terrible resplendent light? Never was a man like this seen in hell; never did the world send us one such as this. He is an attacker, not a debtor; a breaker of chains, not a sinner. He has the look of a judge, not one who is guilty; he comes to fight, not to suffer. Tell me, where are our guards and porters, when such as this One can break our gates and enter by force? Who can this be who has such power? If he were guilty he would not be so daring; were he the bearer of the darkness of sin then he would not shine with such light amid our darkness. But if he is God, what has he to do with hell? And if he be a mere man, how has he sacked our limbo of its victims?

“ O Cross, which has mocked at all our hopes and caused us so much harm! We achieved all our riches upon a tree and on a tree they have been lost to us!”



Christ's Descent into Limbo

By Jacopo Bellini (1400 – 1470)

Italian Renaissance painter

The Meditation is an on-line apostolate of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory in Raymond, Maine. We are Anglo-Catholic Benedictine contemplative community that follows the Holy Rule of St. Benedict, the Father of Western monasticism. We are affiliated within the Diocese of the Northeast of the Anglican Church in America (ACA), a member of the worldwide Traditional Anglican Communion.

The Meditation is a weekly on-line offering sent out free of charge to anyone who desires to receive it. Subscribers may copy and pass along the Meditation to their friends, or send us their e-addresses (with their permission) to add to our subscription list. Each edition is sent out as a BCC (Blank Copy) in respect to subscriber privacy. Contact Fr. Kevin at klamarre@maine.rr.com to subscribe.

In respect to our contemplative vocation and the animals in our rescue and rehab center, we do not have guest facilities and do not receive visitors during the winter months.

Visit our Webpage at: www.ourladyofsevensorrows.org

Priory Kalendar

For the week of March 27th to April 3rd 2016

Easter Week

Sunday, March 27th EASTER DAY
 Monday, March 28th Easter Monday
 Tuesday, March 29th Easter Tuesday
 Wednesday, March 30th Easter Wednesday
 Thursday, March 31st Easter Thursday
 Friday, April 1st Easter Friday
 Saturday, April 2nd Easter Saturday
 Sunday, April 3rd First Sunday after Easter – Low Sunday

KALENDAR KEŪ

Ab. = Abbot, Abs. = Abbess, Abp. = Archbishop, Anc. = Anchorite, Ancs. = anchoress, Ap. = Apostle, Bl. = Blessed, Br. = Brother, Bp. = Bishop, Card. = Cardinal, C. or Conf. = Confessor, Comm. = Commemoration, Dcn. = Deacon, Doct. = Doctor of the Church, Ev. = Evangelist, H. = Hermit, LBr. = Laybrother, LSr. = Laysister, K. = King, Mat. = Matron, M. = Monk, **M.M. = Month's Mind (30 day requiem for the recently departed)**, Myr. = Martyr, N. – Nun, Obl. = Oblate, P. = Priest, Po. = Pope, Pr. = Prior, Prs. = Prioress, R. = Recluse, **RM = Requiem Mortorum, (monthly requiem of the departed)**, Q. = Queen, Ven. = Venerable, Vir. = Virgin, W. = Widow.

FASTING Key: A = Abstinence, F = Fast, F & A = Fast and Abstinence.

RELIGIOUS ORDERS: C.O. = Congregation of the Oratory –Oratorians, C.P = Congregation of the Passion – Passionists, C.S.J. = Congregation of the Society of Jesus – Jesuits, Er. Cam. = Camaldolese Hermits, F.P.O. = Franciscans of the Primitive Observance, O. Car. = Carmelite Order, O. Cart. = Carthusian Order, O.C.D. = Order of Discalced Friars = Carmelites, O.F.A. = Augustinian Order, O.F.M. = Order of Friars Minor – Franciscans, O.F.M. Cap. = Capuchins, O.P. = Order of Preachers = Dominicans (Blackfriars), O. Praem. = Order of Canons Regular – Norbertines (White Monks), OS.B. = Order of St. Benedict – Benedictines, O.S.U = Ursulines, O.C.O. = Order of the Cistercian Observance – Trappists, O.C.S.O. = Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance = Trappists.

6.



FROM YOUR ANIMAL CORRESPONDANTS...



BR. SYLVESTER



BR. CHIP



BR. RAYMOND

Feasts, Fasts, and Other Things: from: The Chipmunks Nutshell Library
is presented by Br. A. Chip Monk, O.S.B. a monk of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory in Raymond, Maine,
USA



Animal News from the Priory

Eleanor, our blind and deaf sheep who was 13+ years old died peacefully this week. She persevered in her later years even though she had been plunged into a dark and mostly silent world with the sudden onset of cataracts and worsening deafness. She quickly learned her boundaries and where the food was and was fearless....All the animals here gratefully wish you all a blessed and joyous Easter and thank you for the blessing that you are in their lives.....

- Sr. Mary Francis

7.



Eleanor



