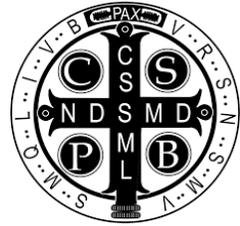


The Meditation



“ Thus says the Lord: Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is: and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.” - Jeremiah; Chapter 6, Verse 16.

April 5th, A.D. 2015



Resurrection
by Carl Heinrich Bloch –

2.

I am that I am, the Resurrection and the Life; and therefore my council is not with the ungodly, but rather my delight is in the law of the Eternal One. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

- 1st Antiphon of Vigils on Easter Day.

REJOICE! THE LORD IS RISEN!

“The Lord is risen! Alleluia!” This is the glad tidings announced by the angels on Easter morning. Jesus, our beloved Redeemer, Whose bitter passion filled us with grief and sorrow, has returned to life, to die no more. He has conquered death and all His enemies, He now enjoys inexpressible glory in His most Holy Humanity. A great mystery took place on that hallowed Easter morning. His resurrection, the glorified soul of Jesus appeared, in the company of all the Holy souls of the New Testament, who were to witness His resurrection, and reunited Himself with His Sacred Body, covered with blood and wounds, till then lying in the garden tomb.

What a sudden transformation! Arrayed in wondrous majesty and with all the magnificence of heavenly glory, the Lord of life raised Himself from the grave. His sacred wounds, only a moment ago eliciting sympathy and compassion, are now brilliant and translucent! A crown of immortal splendor rests upon His Sacred Head in place of that cap of thorns. How lovely and glorious is the once so shamefully disfigured sacred countenance! His eyes glow with heavenly joy. His features radiate a holy peace and an unexplainable delight. This transformation all took place in but a moment. The earth trembled as if to celebrate, the resurrection of its Creator. An angel descended from heaven, his face and garments whiter than snow. He rolled back the stone from the entrance of the sepulchre with ease, and sat upon it. The guards, sent by the Temple authorities to guard it, were terrified and blinded by the great splendor emanating from the opened cave, and fell senseless to the ground.

Rejoice, O my soul, in the glorious victory of your risen Saviour. If, as a true follower of the Crucified, you have shared in His sufferings; if the ignominious and cruel treatment accorded Him filled your heart with compassion and sorrow, then, now, participate in the joy of His glorious triumph.

Behold, your truest Friend, your dearest Father, your King, your Lord and God, has risen again. He will live and reign for all eternity!

O holy and truly blessed day of our beloved Saviour’s glorious resurrection! What unequalled joy and delight is ours in Thy glorious triumph! It is our sweetest consolation to know that Thou, dear Lord, hast no more to suffer, and now rejoices in Thy glory and praise.

O almighty Conqueror of death and hell, complete the work of Thy grace in us, let us participate in the glorious life to which Thou invites us in the great mystery of this day.

+ + +

Prayer for the day: *This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it.*
(Psalm 118)

3.



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK O God, who through the Passion and Death of thy Son hast raised up a fallen world: make thy faithful people continually to rejoice, that those whom thou hast rescued from the perils of everlasting death may attain unto the fruition of thine everlasting kingdom, where with thy Son, our risen and glorified Lord, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, thou doest live and reign for ever and ever throughout all ages of ages. Amen.



Feasts, Fasts, and Other Things



Easter Day and the Easter Octave

The Easter Vigil and the night commemorating the resurrection of Christ abounds with ancient tradition. Many congregations celebrate the greatest festival of the Christian year which takes place on Sunday morning, in churches adorned with easter lilies and other spring flowers which match the *white* or *gold* vestments worn on that day. “*This is the day the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it*” (Psalm 118, vs. 24). Special hymns and anthems enhance the happiness of the occasion. “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again into a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*” (1 Peter, Ch. 1, Vs. 3).

There were no witnesses to the resurrection. The guards at the tomb “became as dead men” when an earthquake struck and an angel descended and rolled back the stone which sealed it (see St. Matt. Ch. 28, Vss 1-2). The gospel for the day is therefore, one of the accounts of the discovery of the empty tomb, differing in detail but agreeing in the essential message: “*Christ is risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*” (1 Cor. Ch. 15, Vs. 20).

The eight days from Easter, counting inclusively, retain much of the distinctive character which they acquired from the fourth century onwards, especially after 389 A.D. when the Roman emperor declared the week a holiday so that the newly baptized should be given further instruction in the mysteries of the faith. There is also provision in Anglican service books, as in the Roman rite, for a daily Eucharist with prefaces, sentences and lessons appropriate to the appearance of the risen Christ.



Anchor, Fish, and Chi rho symbols in the catacombs, St. Sebastian, Rome.

One of the gospel readings for this week relates Christ’s appearance by the Sea of Tiberias when He revealed that He was no spirit but resurrected flesh and blood when He took breakfast of bread and fish cooked on a charcoal fire with His disciples. This was their source of eucharistic symbolism in early Christian art, where a fish is shown on an altar like table. A fish was also an arcane symbol for Christ because the initial letters of Greek *ichthys*: ‘fish’, formed an *acrostic*, (a composition in verse or an arrangement of words in which the first, last, or other particular letters in each line taken in order spell a word or phrase), interpreted as ‘*Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour*’. Pectorius, a Christian, asked his friends and relations to remember him “in the peace of the fish,” in a third century epitaph found in 1839 at Autun in Bergundy.

5.

-Br. Chip, O.S.B.



Feasts, Fasts, and Other Things: from “The Chipmunks Nutshell Library” is presented by
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The Meditation is produced by the Benedictine Community of

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This is a free on-line ministry of our community to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please feel free to copy and pass on this meditation to anyone you feel might benefit from it. To be placed on our weekly mailing list, please contact us at; klamarre@maine.rr.com

You can visit our *website* to view past editions of **The Meditation** at: www.ourladyofsevensorrows.org and go to ‘*Meditation*’ section of the site.

PLEASE NOTE: Sunday Public Mass will resume in the Spring when temperatures permit. We will post the date of our first Mass in the Meditation.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE TO OUR VALUED SUBSCRIBERS:

Your privacy and confidentiality are important to us.

We are aware that you have recently received a mailing from a party *that is not affiliated with the Benedictine community that produces The Meditation.*

The Meditation is not an open forum, but simply an offering from our community to share the monastic ethos, liturgy, & spirituality that is unique to Benedictine life.

It is offered to those who only desire to receive it in the hope that it, in some small way will assist them in their spiritual journey, wherever that may take them.

Benedictines recognize the special unity that comes from living under the Holy Rule of our Father St. Benedict, something that transcends existing separations and denominational differences. This community is dedicated through work, dialogue, and prayer to that unity.

We believe that we have corrected this error by going over to the BCC format in our mailing process.

We apologize for any confusion that may have been created as a result of this unauthorized mailing.

- Fr. Prior Kevin, Sr. Mary-Francis, and all at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory.



“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, and not on things on the earth.” (Col. Ch. 3, Vss. 1&2)

PRIORY KALENDAR

Week of April 5th to April 12th - A.D. 2015

SUNDAY, April 5th . . . EASTER DAY – Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Feast day!

Monday, April 6th . . . Easter Monday

Tuesday, April 7th Easter Tuesday

Wednesday, April 8th . Easter Wednesday

Thursday, April 9th . . . Easter Thursday

Friday, April 10th Easter Friday

Saturday, April 11th . . Easter Saturday

Sunday, April 12th . . . **1st Sunday After Easter** – (Low Sunday) – - - - - *Orthodox Pascha*

KALENDAR KEY: 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, M. = Monk, **M.M. = Month’s Mind (requiem for the departed)**, Myr. = Martyr, N. – Nun, Obl. = Oblate, P. = Priest, P. or Po. = Pope, Pr. = Prior, Prs. = Prioress, R. = Recluse, Q. = Queen, Ven. = Venerable, Vir. = Virgin, W. = Widow,

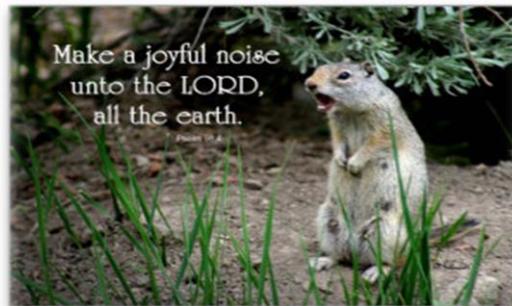
RELIGIOUS ORDERS: C.O. = Congregation of the Oratory –Oratorians, C.P = Congregation of the Passion – Passionists, C.S.J. = Congregation of the Society of Jesus - Jesuits, Er. Cam. = Camaldolese Hermits, F.P.O. = Franciscans of the Primitive Observance, O. Car. = Carmelite Order, O. Cart. = Carthusian 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), O.S.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

FASTING: **A = Abstinence, F = Fast, F & A = Fast and Abstinence**

7.



*Appearance While the Apostles Are at Table - 1309
Duccio di Buoninsegna – Italian*



P A X

