



61st Year

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THE RESURRECTION A WITNESS OF FAITH

The Church, as the body of Christ, celebrates today in all the lengths and widths of the earth the brilliant day of the Resurrection. It is the chief worshipping of event which defines our hypostasis as Christians, our Christian faith. Because as the apostle Paul writes: "while if Christ is not risen, our faith is in vain" (1 Cor. 15:17). Our assurance in the mystery of the Resurrection of the Lord feeds the prevailing meaning of our faith in eternal life, and in the recreation of men and in the renewal of creation.

The apostolic witness of the Resurrection

To the question if Christ really resurrected, the personal experience of the Apostles, the witness of the first Apostolic Church, answer. With their preaching they put forward the truth of the Resurrection to the whole world as eyewitnesses, as the Lord urged them "be ye my witnesses... unto the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). And they assured with their teaching, their miracles and their patience in the trials and the martyrdoms that "Christ is risen from the dead, he became the first fruits of those asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20).

The logic of corruption

The event of the Resurrection of Jesus does not fit into human logic. Because it is a truth which surpasses the laws of our corrupt nature. However, before sin entered into human nature, there was a strong capability and expectation of immortality and eternity. It was the final goal of man's creation, as a creature in the image and likeness of the Most High. Man preserved a constant communication God, he dialogued, he discussed with Him and the meaning of immortality was an achievable event.

From the moment, however, sin entered the world, man lived the experience of his departure from God, he entered into the experience of death. His logic and conscience were altered. Immortality and eternity became unfulfilled desires and dreams. Because together with sin, corruption entered in and man was now called to live in a different reality, the reality of corrupt nature. An event which did not allow him to perceive with logic this event of the Resurrection.

Faith in incorruption

Christ, however, with His Resurrection, brought back faith in the incorruption of the body and the immortality of the soul. He became the new Adam, the spiritual one, in contradiction to the old Adam, the earthly one. He was not the man deprived of the grace of eternity, but the Godman “full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1:14). For us believers, as the Ap. Luke mentions in the Book of Acts, Christ “presented himself alive” (Acts 1:3). In other words, He proved His Resurrection with His living presence, using many convincing ways and proofs, appearing to His disciples constantly for forty days. The experience of the Resurrection, the martyrs of the Church also lived intensely before their martyrdom. The experience of the Resurrection, we also live in the worship life of our Church.

The Resurrection for contemporary man

Because with the prevailing of science and of technology, rational thought and scientific research has prevailed, the event of the Resurrection is not easy to become proved, with such methods. Because the oversight, presence, illumination and the experience of the Holy Spirit is lacking. The apostle Luke writes that the Lord gave the commandment to His disciples to preach this great truth “through the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:2), in other words, with the power of the All Holy Spirit. So for this reason also, He Himself promised that they would receive the power of the Comforter for their preaching and become believed. “You shall receive power, the Holy Spirit having come upon” (verse 8). The Holy Spirit strengthened the Apostles with His pervading power, so that their work could enter into the depths of the human soul and mind, and convince them about the truth of the preaching of the Resurrection of Christ.

For contemporary man to endure and accept the fact that Christ Resurrected and as such, life after death exists, he needs the contribution, help, illumination of the grace of God, the oversight of the Holy Spirit. To enlighten the mind and the knowledge of contemporary man, that the reality of life is not limited within the framework of this world. It extends much more. There is the reality of immortality which is lived as experience in the worship life of the Church and is certified after death. This is the ministry of her mysteries, to initiate man in the truth beyond reasoning, who is the resurrected Jesus Christ, and to make him a partaker of eternal life which the Lord gave.

Archim. Ch. N.

Christ is risen

Today we gained an important and brilliant victory. Today our Lord after setting up the trophy of victory against death and He wiped out the authority of the devil, with His Resurrection He granted us the path of salvation. So let us all rejoice, let us rejoice from joy and rejoicing. Because, even though He who defeated and was shown to be triumphant over death is our Lord, the rejoicing and joy are our own, because He did them all for our own salvation. And furthermore Christ defeated the devil with the means with which he fought and defeated us also... instead of Eve we have Mary. Instead of the wood of knowledge of good and evil, we have the wood of the cross. Instead of the death of Adam we have the death of the Lord.

From the book: St. John Chrysostom

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CHRIST IS RISEN