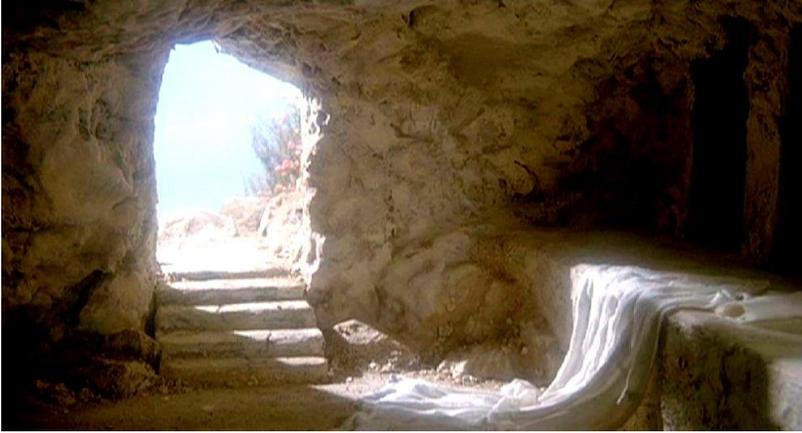




ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY April 1 & BEYOND”

“I didn’t see it, but I believe it!”



There is no way around it. You have to go into it and through it.”

This statement is about Easter, and Jesus rising from the dead. It can only be a modern statement. The reason this is true is because the Resurrection of Jesus took place over 2000 years ago. That is, it did not happen

within our own sight. I have wished many times that I had been there on the third day to have been able to witness Jesus’ body laid in the tomb; to witness the stone being rolled into place in front of the opening; to hear those who had either seen him or an angel telling of what has taken place; to have seen the tomb empty with only Jesus’ burial cloth left behind for myself; to have been one of those groups who saw Jesus after his resurrection, such as on the beach eating fish together; to have been able to realize then that Jesus was not an ethereal illusion or holograph; to have witnessed the touching of his wounds; to have witnessed his voice, his touch, his physical presence; to have been able to count myself as one of the 500 remaining, as St. Paul mentioned in one of his letters, who were still alive who had witnessed the Lord Jesus being alive.

So Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, and Philip, and Thomas, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, Jude, and Simon the Zealot, and all those others saw the Lord. And when they talked about rising from the dead, there was no doubt in their minds and hearts that he actually had.

We do not have that opportunity today. And that’s where the quote above comes in, and what makes it a contemporary or modern statement. For us today to believe in Jesus we can’t rely upon anything else except a decision on our part – somewhere and somehow in our lives – to believe without seeing. And isn’t this the reason for witnesses!!

A jury will convict from the evidence of one eye witness. There should be more, of course. So the list of those who are witnesses from then is immense, and also convincing, so much more so. The strangest thing is this: there were those 2000 years ago who witnessed the empty tomb, and even then chose not to believe! There is no hard guarantee of belief even as a physical witness!

But let's be open to investigate. Listen to the witnesses, trust their testimony. Enter into the proclamation of Jesus Christ risen from the dead. Then see if he does not present himself to you as the Savior of the World - even of you.

Here is our prayer for this Sunday, the Day of Resurrection, Easter, the Paschal Feast

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Listen to that petition, even as you might pray it out loud. "Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith." The petition asks for God's help – that is what a petition is all about, right? – that He would "Grant" His grace, call it His strength, call it His power, call it His mercy to actually accomplish our true rebirth, and do it not by sight, but by your faith in him. Alleluia! May your petition be granted. May you see the Lord.

Father Rob Eaton, Interim Rector

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: Easter Sunday

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

—The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

SATURDAY: Societies of Mary Day of Devotion

11:00a Rosary (St. Mary's Chapel)

11:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

Noon Potluck Lunch (Parish Hall)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)