

REFLECTION: I remember a time I was given a second chance to start over... I remember... I remember...

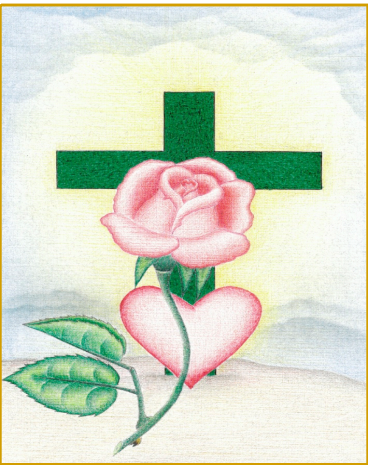
The Resurrection of the Lord

Cycle C | April 20, 2025

WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

I remember when I first walked in JRJI at the chapel here in the yard. At first, I wasn't sure if I wanted to attend. But my experience throughout the whole service was so special and the magnitude it holds amongst each brother inside was like if God was watching us the first day I went. So many stories were shared where one can relate to. My heart opened by sharing and for once, I felt vulnerable and allowed to open my heart to Jesus and the fellowship of these men with me. That my chance of starting over and being a brother, a son to Jesus Christ. He knows I have flaws; He knows as well that I love Him and will surrender to Him. I am grateful that I have rejoined and there is peace inside of me with all the love in me.

-Nasser, who is in a California State Prison.



PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **R. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray: Lord, As we celebrate your rising today, we recognize the light and hope that you bring into our lives. May your example give us the strength to rise above our the darkness.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **R. And with your spirit.**

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray: God, As we celebrate the resurrection of your Son Jesus, we ask that you take away our doubts and help us to believe in life. Guide us as we continue to encounter with Jesus in our road of life and may his presence in our lives bring us peace, healing and hope.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 10: 34a, 37-43

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.”

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Colossians 3: 1-4

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.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118: 1-2. 16-17. 22-23

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

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.

“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.

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.

Gospel: John 20: 1-9

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION: THE OTHER SIDE

*(from the eyes of
mary of magdala)*

jesus saying my name
mary

at that moment
i knew it was jesus
it was not the gardener

jesus
you are alive

we sat down in the garden
the sun was strong
everything was different

jesus
you have risen
you have conquered death
seeing you on the cross
no breath coming forth
there are some who
have always claimed
that with death
everything ends
so you might as well
enjoy life as much
as you can
but jesus
you are life
there are so many
who are so terrified
of death
they cannot talk about it
they do everything
they can to run away from it
but i know there is a way
to remain in contact
with those who have died

jesus saying
mary
let’s go over to that stream
in the middle of the garden

as we walked over
my whole being
was filled with joy
that jesus is alive
he is with me
he is talking to me

we stop at the stream
the whole universe
filled with his presence

mary
your faith is solid
life does not end

with death
but another phase begins
mist thickens with the sun
hitting the grass

jesus was asking me
about my parents
how many years has it
been since they died?
with jesus asking me this
i felt a surge of emotions
as i remembered
saying goodbye to them
one morning

i never saw them again
because their boat
turned over in the storm
ever since then
i just feel they are still alive

mary
step over the stream

i went with jesus
to the other side
of the stream
greeting me
were my parents
i knew they still
went on living
i began to draw
closer to them
to embrace them
and then just like that
they physically disappeared
but they were still there

jesus saying
now speak with them
they can hear you
and on some level
you will receive an answer
whenever you want
to communicate
with someone
who has died
go to that place
to speak with them

jesus the risen one
just quietly stood with me
as i brought to mind
different friends
who had died
during those years
i could feel
they were with me
then jesus said
call out their names

now talk to them
tell them what you liked
most about them
and say goodbye
tears started to fill my eyes

jesus the risen one
moved me to say
i miss you but
i feel you are present
i still have a lot of memories
of when we fought
i liked your sense of humor
i liked your compassion

i looked at jesus
and i knew he could see
what i could not see
the mystery of death

jesus
i like being with you
otherwise
it would seem so crazy
as i said this
i could feel benjamin
was communicating
with me that
he was telling me
that he was glad
he could also be with me
i could also hear about
how loved we are
by jesus’ abba
the vast valley of love
and jesus smiled

mary
stepping over onto
this side of the stream
is the greatest adventure
i will always be there
to meet you to feel
the connectedness
of the spirit world
the sun in the garden
was rising higher
the mist lifting
it was good to be
with the risen one
who is alive
putting me in touch
with those who
have gone before

seeing again
the faces of my parents
i know they are here
at first i couldn’t
say anything

but this was more real
than anything
being able to say
to my parents
thank you
for giving me life
thank you
for accompanying me
you are not at my side
like before
but you hear me
thank you for also
being with me
during these years
since your death
i feel you are
still guiding me
still accompanying me
in a different way
from a deep
mysterious place within
i could hear them say
i love you

mary saying out loud
i tell you that
my life has changed
during these last three years

i have been
a follower of jesus
i have learned how
life can be different
being his follower
i have learned
what it is to be
in community
to struggle against
this empire against
religious oppression
when you had just died
i had these sweeping
overwhelming
emotional pangs of grief
but as the years
quickly pass
you seem more distant
your memories
are not as fresh
that’s why i am so grateful
for being with you jesus
on this side of the stream
i have not felt
this presence
since the day you died

these tears
fill me with joy
knowing now that
you truly are alive

