

FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION

Mt. Calvary, West View / Pentecost, Avella 04/16/17

Acts 10:34-43 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20: 1-18

Theme: Information Overload

+ Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +

Our Text is taken from the Gospel of St. John, the 12th chapter:

Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

HE IS RISEN! He Is Risen Indeed Hallelujah, This Is Most Certainly True!

We spent a better part of last week talking investigations; compilations of evidence; pinpointing accusations; drawing conclusions based on all the evidence at hand, and accepting the outcome of events to be not all as they seem. Today, I believe, there can be no debate of the evidence and it really is as it seems.

For today, in the City of Peace, the Savior has risen to offer peace and comfort to those who mourn. The tomb is found empty! There can be no disputing this! There are just too many credible witnesses ó men and women ó for there to be a mistake on any person's part of this evidence. The evidence of the linen clothes, of which He had been hastily preserved yet carefully attended to, are still there, not strewn about as a robber would do but carefully folded and positioned in their respective places in order to prove that this was no fluke, but the meticulous planning that would even make even Hefren-Tillotson feel they were not up to par.

The crux of the matter is, we have seen the big picture; we have plenty of centuries to collect, review, process and conclude all the life of Christ to accept that this empty tomb is just as it is ó the Christ has indeed risen from the grave to prove that the sacrifice on the cross is acceptable

to the Father and your sins, as many as they be, are forgiven. There is no disputing this with our many years of proof and time to absorb this truth.

Poor Mary Magdalene. She did not have the luxury of time honored traditions or the many evidences of Jesus' promise to rise from the grave. Even if she did, she most likely would be doing the same thing she is doing here, for even Peter and John, the two disciples that were privy to every miracle, every Sermon, every Word of which Jesus spoke throughout His ministry, especially the promises that He would rise again in three days, walked away in bewilderment, for as of yet, even they, *“Did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.”* If stalwart apostles like Peter and John are bewildered at the empty tomb, how would poor Mary feel?

There is the rub, my friends. Even with all the evidence, piled high, catalogued and arranged in Chronological, Sociological, political, or otherwise arrayed, you still cannot believe in the Empty tomb with your own reason or strength. It can only be achieved by faith, a faith the Holy Ghost imparts where and when He wills. When the Holy Spirit descends upon a person, it is the Holy Ghost Himself that moved the heart to confess their sins, and acknowledge that Jesus on the Cross is the payee of such sins. Having placed said sins at the cross, the Holy Ghost then moves us with the comfort that the empty tomb does prove the existence of a God an Almighty Father that accepts this payment and removes His wrath from the believer. With the wrath removed, the soul abounds, and the heart rejoices in her God, knowing that reconciliation has been made, and that no more is necessary for salvation. Simple faith in the works of the Triune God makes you a forgiven, saved, and acceptable child to the God that desires your presence this day. So He calls you through the Gospel to confess and receive the Absolution; He calls you to the reception of Body and Blood for the strengthening of your faith; He enlightens you with the gifts

of faith in the empty tomb to confess with all the angels in heavenly host, ðHe Is Risen!ö He Is Risen Indeed Hallelujah, This Is Most Certainly True!

After so much doom and gloom in the Lenten season it is so wonderful to sing and shout our confession of our Lord. It is wonderful to be solid and clear minded about our Triune God and His Salvation brought about by the Cross of Calvary and proven with the empty tomb. Though, as clear as this is for each of us, it is cloudy at best, or just downright unbelievable for those who do not know nor understand the truth of the empty tomb. They might as well be on the inside with the stone still in place, the soul is so dark and harassed by sin and its guilt. No amount of evidence, no matter how compelling is going to make them believe, but the Word of God does destroy the barriers beset by sins and makes the heart believe. The message of the empty tomb is a vital and necessary today as it was then. Today let us begin anew the message of Christ's forgiveness, and the comfort of an empty tomb, sharing it with all we meet. ðHe Is Risen!ö He Is Risen Indeed Hallelujah, This Is Most Certainly True! In His Most Holy Name we pray. **AMEN.**

+ AND NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING
KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH CHRIST JESUS. AMEN+

Offering / Prayers

There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of judgment.