

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - QUASIMODOGENITI 04/08/18

Mt. Calvary, West View

ACTS 4:32-35, I JOHN 1:1 ó 2: 2, JOHN 20:19-31

Theme: All Doubt Gone

+ 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. Mark, the 16th Chapter:

Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my Hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

He Is Risen! HIRIH;TIMCT!†

Disbelief is a very strange thing. It causes us to not see the reality before us and makes us see things that are not really true. Our use of the word is quite flippant as well. As we watch Sidney Crosby score not once but *twice* in a span of just a few games by picking the flying puck out of the air and batting it into the goal, many cheered, “Unbelievable!” and “I don’t believe it!” and still others, “Are You Kidding Me?” Each in its own way is a declaration of not believing what they just saw, and acknowledging that the impossible has happened, but the score on the board is proof positive that the reality is there ó Sidney is the greatest we see today. He will never be the greatest of all time until he does the truly impossible ó score 5 goals 5 different ways in a single game. That my friends was truly magnificent.

The disciples were having a hard time wrapping their thoughts around the empty tomb. What we have here in this scene is a number of evidences that prove Christianity is the only meet, right, and salutary religion that identifies the one true God. First off, we have a scene of confusion and disbelief. What religion puts in all the bad information? None, that is who. If you are making up a religion, you

put it in the best favorable light, and you put the others in a less favorable light. Christianity has no problem showing the frailty of man, for that is the reality of the situation. The purpose of Jesus coming to us was to save us from ourselves, so to show us mere mortals in unfavorable light only shows the truth. The disciples were in fear of the Jews because the tomb is empty. This proves that Jesus really was dead, and the disciples fully expected to see Him still there laying in a stranger's tomb. It also proves that the disciples did not come and steal the body as the Jews spread the rumor. If they stole it, they would not be in confusion as to where He might be, for they would already know! And the doors locked, windows shut, and Jesus still shows up? This proves His resurrection, His second person of the Trinity claim, and the ability to do what He says He will do, so when He offers peace, they receive peace. When He offers understanding, He gives understanding to see His Word exactly as He imparts it, and there is no more confusion. Truly there is peace when we trust in the Word alone, no matter how much reason wants to fight it.

So as Jesus takes care of His disciples, there seems to be a miscreant. Thomas is a doubter, a wayward man, a non-conformist. He refuses to hang out with the others for whatever his reason would be. I would venture to say his reason is because there is no need to hang with those hosers anymore. After all, if the Jews want them removed, and you are no longer with them, you are safe, right? Not only this, but why hang with them if you do not believe in the resurrection from the dead? Thomas did not believe in the resurrection; "Unbelievable!"; "I don't believe it!"; "You have got to be Kidding Me!" He believed any other scenario, but the physical manifestation of Jesus from the grave. That is just unbelievable. First shift, first shot, first goal? Now that is more believable. Yet, to his credit, Thomas shows up the following Sunday to hang out with these delusional goofs. And then the truly unbelievable happens as he sees Jesus face to face.

All doubt gone.

Truly this is still happening today. It is still an unbelievable concept that there is life after death to this unbelieving world. There is no end to the numerous scenarios other than a resurrection from the dead to the side of Jesus. From reincarnation, to planet habitation, to virgin ownership, to just plain nothingness and all things in between, mixed and stirred to a quagmire of goofiness that for whatever reason is more acceptable than the simple resurrection from the dead.

Many have asked for reason to be fulfilled before belief can be assured. "Seeing is believing," the mantra goes. "If God exists, why does He not show Himself?" Well He did here. No, I want Him to show Himself to me! Ah, so now God has to conform to us before we believe? Should Jesus have come down from the cross as well, so that the Jews would believe? The truth is, Jesus did, does, and accomplishes everything necessary for salvation. Even the faith is not your own, but the Holy Spirit moving within you to give you the knowledge and peace to know and understand the Scriptures we have before us. This from your baptism which gave you the believing faith you needed to trust in the Word of God. Since Jesus has done all this, is it such a leap of faith to believe that He rose from the dead? Does it take mental gymnastics to understand the angel at the tomb, "He is not here. He Is Risen!"? HIRIH;TIMCT

The world knows not of the resurrection, so it cannot know of even more divine things such as Salvation Baptism and the Salutary gift of the Lord's Supper. The world has a need that you can assure that you can offer the Risen Christ to all you meet. Risen from the dead to give you eternal life, that is what the nails and spear marks remind you; our Savior lives, and grants to you this day salvation from sins and eternal life in His name. You give Christ in your daily activities when you offer up Christian love for your neighbor, genuinely concerned for their wellbeing of body and soul, wanting them to have the same peace and comfort you have here in God's Word alone; not needing external proofs to believe, but simply the power of the Word alone.

Truly you are blessed for you have not seen but believe. Yet here today we will see ó the body and the blood given for the complete remission of all sins. If seeing is believing then See Him offered for us today and know that sins are forgiven.

He is Risen! HIRIH;TIMCT...All Doubt Gone. Alleluia! 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 OUR LORD. AMEN+

Offering / Prayers

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

¹ Congregation response: He Is Risen Indeed, Halleluiah!; This Is Most Certainly True!