*of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.*" (Isaiah 11:2-3) In Him, through His resurrection from the dead, are comfirmed His words as true as spirit and life; the resurrection is a proclamation of God's Mercy and love for sinners.

The resurrection opens to the Gentiles the Fountain of Mercy and Love, they are now called to live a new life, a new creation through faith in Christ "*if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*" (2 Cor 5:17)

Not a word of the New Testament has any meaning without the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Our faith in the New Testament is born on the fact that this happened in human history, that this event transcends human history, but Jesus did leave signs of his life here: the empty tomb, the apparitions to the apostles "*The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event, with manifestations that were historically verified, as the New Testament bears witness. In about A.D. 56, St. Paul could already write to the Corinthians: "I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.*" (Catechism 639)

## III. SEQUENCE VICTIMAE PASCHALI LAUDES:

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
Offer your thankful praises!
A Lamb the sheep redeems;
Christ, who only is sinless,
Reconciles sinners to the Father.
Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:
The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.
Speak, Mary, declaring
What you saw, wayfaring.
"The tomb of Christ, who is living,
The glory of Jesus' resurrection;
bright angels attesting,
The shroud and napkin resting.
Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;
to Galilee he goes before you."

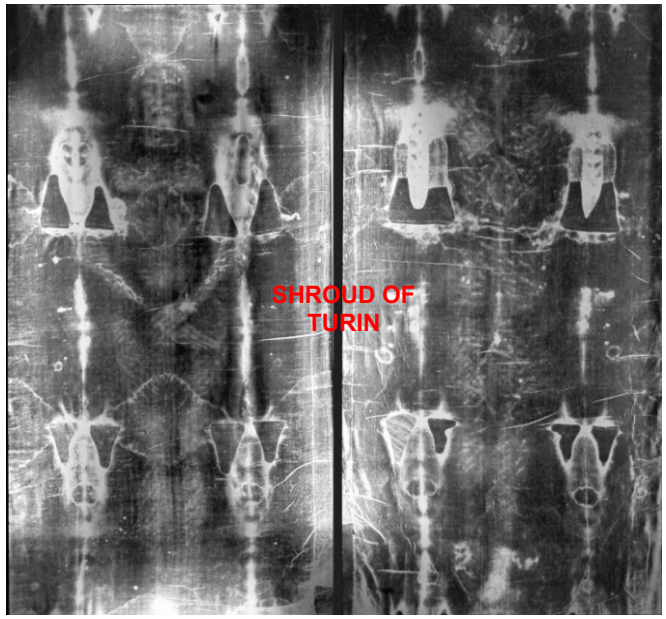
Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!
Amen. Alleluia

**Fr. Armando Marsal, DCJM.**



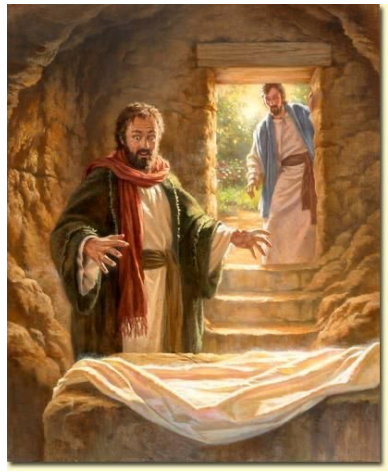
# 'I CAME TO BRING FIRE'

## EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD APRIL 12th




"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." (John 20:1-9)

## I. THE EMPTY TOMB:



**Petition**: My God and my Lord You were raised from the dead with the power of sanctification, with the power of giving us the Holy Spirit, the Consoler; let me never be doubtful of Your power to sanctify me in love, joy and peace.

The empty tomb talks to us of hope. A new hope, a living hope that means a new birth from God and towards God; "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of*

*from the dead*" (1 Peter 1:3) It is a hope that doesn't' disappoint, "*because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us*" (Romans 5:5). It is a hope that is transformative and lets the power and mercy of God fulfill our lives and hearts "*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*" (Rm 15:13)

What a great day! What a gift of God for Jesus and for us! This is the day of the New Creation, the day of our liberation, the day of our salvation; the day in which man is united to God, the day of the victory of God over evil, sin, suffering and death. Now we call God Father, now we are called to be holy in Jesus Christ, now we are temples of the Holy Spirit. Now, today the way of Heaven is open, Heaven and earth unite in a song of joy and exultation, crying out: The Lord is risen, Alleluia! He is truly risen, Alleluia! Alleluia!

We proclaim with the Holy Spirit: *The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.* (Psalm 118:22-24)

Let us, in this wonderful day, open our hearts to Christ who has died and is risen for us in order to renew us, in order to remove from our hearts the poison of sin and death and to pour within us the life of the Holy Spirit: divine and eternal life. This is the moment, the event that changed decisively the history of humanity.

Jesus has risen, and is therefore alive, He is always with us. Who will ever be able to separate Him from us? His love has triumphed o *may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*" (Rm 15:13)

What a great day! What a gift from God for Jesus and for us! This is the day of the New Creation, the day of our liberation, the day over sin and death, who will ever be able to deprive us of the love of Him who has conquered evil and sin and has destroyed death? If we are with Him, who is against us? We can do everything with the One who strengthens us.

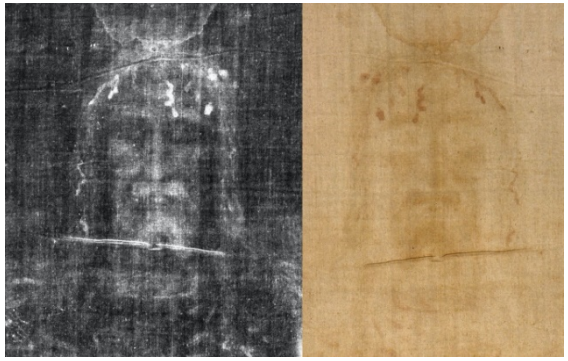
Thus we sing with joy, together with the Church, in the words of the Exulted: "Sing, choirs of angels … rejoice, O earth!" The Resurrection is a cosmic event, which links Heaven and earth together. In the words of the Exulted once again, we can proclaim: "Christ … who came back from the dead and shed his peaceful light on all mankind, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever." Amen! (Benedict XVI, April 15, 2006)

As the risen Lord, Christ, the new Adam, shows us that evil never has the last word, that love is stronger than death, that our future and the future of all humanity, lies in the hands of a faithful and provident God, whose being is Love.



## II. HE HAD TO RISE FROM THE DEAD:

**Petition**: My God you can do all things new. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and End, the First and the Last; You, O Lord our God, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty. You are the living one. You were dead, and now You are alive forever and ever and You have the keys of Death and of Hades. I BEG YOU, MAKE MY HEART NEW!



The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the corner stone of our faith. Whatever we believe of Jesus and of God through Jesus is because He was risen from the dead. We believe in the cross because we believe in the resurrection.

The resurrection is God's way of telling us and the world that Jesus is His Son; it is God's way of taking, publicly, the side of Jesus in the proceedings that the Jewish and Gentiles procured agianst Jesus.

With the resurrection of Jesus, God is confirming and defending the the Old Testament interpretation of Jesus, in opposition to the political messianism and apocalyptic thinking.

God confirms his claim of being the Son of God, on account of which He had been condemned to death.

The resurrection of Jesus is the Redemption of our sins, a confirmation of His name, God Saves; "*She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins*" (Mt 1:21), He is the Paschal Victim, the pure Lamb of the sacrifice that is clearly announced in the text of the Old Testament, especially in the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 and that of Psalm 22.

In Him the Paschal Sacrifice is acomplished in a New Way, the Old Testament Sacrifices and worship were signs and figures of the New and Eteranl Covenant, the Eucharist.

All the promises of the Old Testament have their achievments in Jesus Christ: "*For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not "Yes and No"; but in him it is always "Yes." For in him every one of God's promises is a "Yes"*.(2 Cor 1:19-20) He is truly the Messiah the One who is anointed and brings the Holy Spirit "*The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit Jesus Christ of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit*