

Easter Homily Rerun: April 16, 2017 - Fr. Bill

Easter Sunday: It's All About Jesus! , Fr Bill



In the antiphon for Night Prayer on Holy Saturday the Church prays, “For our sake Christ was obedient, accepting even death, death on a cross. Therefore God raised Him on high and gave Him the name above all other names.” This is what Easter is all about: Jesus’ obedience, Jesus’ death, Jesus being raised on high, and Jesus honored above all others.

In today’s first reading (Acts 10:34a, 37-43) we hear: “To Him [Jesus] all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His name.” The prophets witnessed to Jesus and we receive forgiveness from Jesus.

In today’s second reading (option ‘A’- Col 3:1-4) we are reminded that we died and rose with Jesus in the waters of baptism; and that our hearts should be lifted up to Jesus in the kingdom where He reigns at the right hand of God.

In the Sequence we prayed “O praise the Lamb. Alleluia.” Enjoying the return of the alleluia while praising Jesus, the Lamb that was slain and yet lives.

In the Gospel (John 20:1-9) we are shown that must enter the tomb to discover the Resurrection of Jesus. This leads us to much more:

We must enter the mystery of Christ to discover the meaning of faith.

We must enter the mercy of Christ to find the meaning of hope.

We must enter the life of Christ to meet the way, the truth, and the life.

We must enter the cross of Christ to learn the meaning of suffering.

We must enter the death of Christ to access the resurrection to eternal life (our Father’s house, Ps 5:8).

We must enter the person of Christ to encounter the presence of God.

We must enter the love of Christ to find “Him Whom my soul loves.” (Song 3:4)

We must enter Christ Himself to discover that the gates of Heaven have been opened to us.

We must enter Christ Himself for it is better to enter into life than to be thrown into eternal fire. (see Mt 18:8)

Through, With and In the Waters of Baptism _ We Enter. This is what Easter is all about, and it’s all about Jesus. Is it possible that this not bring about “a surge of the heart” in us!