

PRAYER AND PONDERING POINTS

THE SACRED TRIDUUM 2020

EASTER SUNDAY, April 12, 2020

Rdg 1: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

The use of a reading from the Acts of the Apostles as the first reading (rather than a reading from the Old Testament) introduces a radical shift in our faith perspective. The power of the Resurrection shifts our perspective from a focus on what God has been doing or on how God has been preparing us to a focus on what God is NOW accomplishing in this world through the Resurrection of Jesus. Peter recaps the story of Jesus, his Resurrection and now “He commissioned us to preach to the people.” This is the Gospel dynamic.

Resp: Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.” This joyful response is taken from verse 24 of this Psalm. It is a simple yet profound acknowledgement of what alone has done, what God alone can do: “I shall not die, but live!” I (Padre Riccardo) remember in the old days of Gregorian chant that, most often, chant was very sober and restrained, but one setting for this line got positively declamatory and exultant. After all, that is the sense of this Psalm 118.

Rdg 2: Col 3:1-4

Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B., of Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon, has chosen “Seek the things that are above” as his motto. In a certain sense, this is a motto for every baptized person truly to live by: “If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above.”

Or Rdg 2: 1 Cor 5:6b-8

This alternative second reading also emphasizes the newness of what we are celebrating here, the newness of God’s work, in referring to the practice in the Jewish feast of Passover of getting rid of the “old” leaven and eating unleavened bread. Paul says, “let us celebrate (this Paschal) feast...with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Sequence: Victimae paschali laudes

A marvelous meditation on the images from the Scriptures of the Resurrection: Lamb, empty tomb, angels, burial cloths.

Gospel: Jn 20:1-9

The empty tomb, empty tomb. The Lord of Life not here. The burial cloths are not unheeded, unneeded. One thing is needed. One thing heeded. What the “other disciple” did. “He saw and believed.”