

TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 17
April 24, 2022

EASTER 2

Let's start by realizing that the feast of Easter extends over fifty days which we call "Easter Season". We cannot discover and explain all the riches of Easter at once. It is good to allow oneself to be deeply inhabited by this fundamental mystery of the Christian faith. Indeed, as Saint Paul says, if Christ is not risen, my faith is vain (1 Corinthians 15, 14). It doesn't make sense.

During the days of Easter Season, we are immersed again in the waters of our baptism, we relive the discoveries of the Apostles and disciples after Pentecost, we reread the Scriptures with new light and we understand that the One of whom the Scriptures spoke of, in the Old Testament from Abraham through Moses and the prophets is Jesus.

As Saint Peter proclaims to the people gathered around him and the apostles on the day of Pentecost, "this Jesus whom you crucified, God has made him Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:37). Yes! in his lowliness on the cross, Jesus bore all the frailties and the sins of the world and he was raised up by God who exalted him and gave him to us as "the first risen among those who slept" (I Corinthians 15:20), our Firstborn brother "living for God forever". He "has come back to life, and he lives for God," writes Saint Paul (Romans 6:10).

How to receive this Mystery of the Resurrection in our lives?

The three readings of our today's liturgy are ways for us to enter into the Mystery of the Resurrection of Jesus. the gospel especially presents to us the particular way followed by the apostle Thomas. In the well-known episode of the Gospel of Saint John, the recognition of the Risen Jesus in faith is illustrated by the reactions of Thomas who, on learning that the other apostles had met the Risen One, does not believe what he is told. And a week later we find him on his knees before the Risen One saying to him "My Lord and my God". Thomas' hesitations and doubts sometimes resemble ours. Our senses and our reason seek proof of the resurrection, they will never have any. It is a question of faith, a faith that is based on witnesses who have had an encounter with the Risen One who fills their hearts with a presence like no other. This is what the first witnesses lived: the apostles, Mary Magdalene, the disciples of Emmaus and this is what we are invited to live in an act of renewed faith in the resurrection of Jesus. "Blessed are those who believe without seeing".

Today, if you will, let us receive together the mystery of the Resurrection in faith, sometimes through questions similar to those of the Apostle Thomas, but with absolute confidence in the testimony of the first witnesses who saw and recognized the presence of Jesus still alive and who announced this Good News to us.

Christ is Risen Alleluia!

Easter 2. Psalm 150

Response: O Praise the Lord, alleluia!

O PRAISE God in his sanctuary: * praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him in his noble acts: * praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Response: O Praise the Lord, alleluia!

Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: * praise him upon the lute and harp.
Praise him in the timbrels and dances: * praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Response: O Praise the Lord, alleluia!

Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: * praise him upon the loud cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath * praise the LORD.

Response: O Praise the Lord, alleluia!

SAINTS.

Mark the Evangelist. 25 April. John Mark was a Jew and, according to Paul's letter to the Colossians, was cousin to Barnabas. He accompanied Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey. Afterwards, he went to Cyprus with Barnabas and to Rome with first Paul and then Peter. Mark's gospel is generally regarded as the earliest and was most likely written whilst he was in Rome. It was probably based as much on Peter's preaching of the good news as on Mark's own memory. Mark's gospel has a sharpness and an immediacy about it and he does not spare the apostles in noting their weaknesses and lack of understanding that Jesus the Christ would suffer for the world's redemption. Sharing in the glory of the resurrection means sharing in the giving of self, both in body and spirit, even to death; sharing the gospel was, for all, in essence both excessively generous and ultimately sacrificial.

Catherine of Siena. 29 April. Teacher of the Faith. Catherine Benincasa was born in 1347, the second youngest of twenty-five children. Pious from her earliest years, she overcame family opposition to her vocation and became a Dominican tertiary at the age of eighteen. Nourished by a life of contemplative prayer and mystical experience, she devoted herself to active care for the poor and sick. She became increasingly sought out as an adviser on political as well as religious matters and, in 1376, she journeyed to Avignon as an ambassador to the pope and influenced his decision to return to Rome. She wrote a *Dialogue* on the spiritual life as well as numerous letters of counsel and direction, which stressed her devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus. She suffered a stroke on 21 April and died eight days later, on this day in the year 1380.