Easter Day B 2021 Christ Is Risen just as he said!

Isaiah 25: 8,9 Mark 16:1-8

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

The prophet Isaiah wrote that this day would come, wherein Christ would rise from the dead. He predicted that death would be swallowed up forever. Now when he wrote these words, he said that they were the words of the Lord. For the Lord has spoken ….

That is quite something for anyone to claim that they are speaking for God. One way to know that they really are speaking for God is if it comes true. If a prophet’s words come true, then they are truly sent by God and their words are trustworthy and true.

What was promised is the end of death. Death would be swallowed up forever. That is quite a miracle. No ordinary accomplishment. Yet it happened on the third day, on the Lord’s Day, when the tomb of Jesus was found empty.

But Jesus said that it would be so. He predicted that he would rise and go into Galilee before his disciples. And it was so.

So the word of the Lord is true. It cannot be broken but stands for all time.

But then why are we so slow to believe it? We are like the women who went to the tomb to anoint his dead body when he said he would rise on the third day. Mary Magdalen, Mary the mother of James, and Salome came to anoint the body not celebrate His Resurrection.

They like us, are carrying grief, worn down by the weight of disappointment and by the burden of our sins, the words of the Lord are covered by this heavy veil of darkness.

But that did not stop Jesus. He rose just as He said he would. He rose because he wanted to. He had to rise because the Holy Scriptures said so.

Some smart people have discounted the resurrection of Jesus because they said that the women were overcome with grief and saw visions of what they really wanted but never actually happened. In the same way that grieving people see their dead loved ones but they are only ghosts or produced by the human mind.

Now the exact opposite happened. The women did not expect to find a living Lord, but came to anoint his dead body. They did not see Jesus but an angel who proclaimed that Jesus is not here.

But simply acknowledging the historical fact of the resurrection is still not saving faith. That is seen when the women who were told of the resurrection were trembling, gripped with fear and astonishment and did not tell anyone what they had heard and the empty tomb their eyes had seen.

A risen Lord can be terrifying, if now he is coming to settle accounts with you. But Christ died in our place, His death was the death we should have had, and now his resurrection is a promise that he no longer holds our sins over us, but we can firmly trust all his words.

That is remarkable to think that Mark’s account of the resurrection holds no gospel until the other words of Jesus are added: I have died for you and will come back and take you to be with me forever.

Isaiah wrote God’s words earlier that promised the same thing. God will swallow up death forever. God will wipe away all tears and take away the reproach of his people.

All these things will come true in the final Resurrection of all flesh. They will come true because God said so. These words of God are comforting and joyful because He died and rose for us.

The women came to anoint his body but his body was already anointed with perfume from Mary and the gift of the Magi of myrrh, which was truly in preparation for his burial. But death could hold Christ in. He took back life again from the jaws of the grave and promises that by it, His father has indeed accepted his sacrifice for all our sin.

Isaiah promised that God would prepare a rich and exquisite feast on his mountain. There would be the finest of wines and meat offered there. Such rich food is put into our mouths as Jesus, our Paschal Lamb, gives his true body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins, salvation and eternal life.

Do not be slow to believe all that the Lord as spoken, but rejoice and be glad that His resurrection guarantees and promises your resurrection to eternal life.