



Resurrexi

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JMJ

U.I.O.G.D.

Ave Maria!

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, we love Thee, save souls
O God come to our assistance. Jesus, Mary, Joseph please make haste to help us!

+++ Jesus, Mary, Joseph +++

VOL. 5 - THE CHRISTIAN'S LAST END
EASTER SUNDAY.

The Hope in and Truth of our Future Resurrection.

He is risen. St. Mark 16: 6.

Ye holy women, why do you spend so much time seeking Jesus amongst the dead? He has indeed suffered much; He was nailed to the cross, and at last died on it; He was buried, too, in this place. "You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified," in order to show to Him the last honors; but "He is risen; He is not here;" you will see Him, as He himself told you, in Galilee. "Go, tell his disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee: there you shall see Him as He told you." Christ is really risen from the dead. But how can that be a comfort for us? Our Head may be in glory, really living again; what better are we, the members He has left behind, if we have to rot away in the grave and remain dead forever? But, no; our bodies shall indeed decay in the grave, but we shall not die forever according to the soul.

We shall all truly rise again from the dead.

As the foundation of our faith is the resurrection of our Lord from the dead according to the body, so the foundation of our hope is our own resurrection from the dead according to the body. A Christian should always keep this truth deeply impressed on his mind; for it assures him that if he serves his God faithfully here below he shall one day be happy, body and soul, with God for all eternity. The truth is the bridle which powerfully restrains us from evil, the spur which drives us on to do good. This is the truth which, when well considered, embitters to us all the foolish

joys of earth, and sweetens the sorrows and trials of this short life. And what would it profit us to live even for a moment amongst the troubles of this life, if we had not the hope of living forever in heaven? Who would have the courage to take crosses and trials from the hand of God and bear them with patience and cheerfulness, if the mortified and emaciated body must rot forever in the grave and never get any reward for its penitential practices? Then might we say: "We are born of nothing, and after this we shall be as if we had not been. Come, therefore, and let us enjoy the good things that are present. Let none of us go without his part in luxury: let us everywhere leave tokens of joy: for this is our portion, and this is our lot" (Wisdom 2: 2, 6, 9); let us eat, drink, and enjoy ourselves while we have time; for when death comes we shall have neither joy to hope for nor sorrow to fear.

But we have a far better assurance than that from our faith in the resurrection of Our Redeemer, and we know that we shall live forever, body and soul, according to the words of St. Paul: "And we will not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them that are asleep, that you be not sorrowful, even as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them who have slept through Jesus will God bring with Him" (1 Thess. 4: 12, 13). Our Lord declares: "Amen, amen, I say unto you, that the hour cometh.... when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God. All that are in the graves shall hear the voice of the Son of God: And they that have done good things shall come forth unto the resurrection of life: but they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment" (St. John 5: 28, 29). And again: "This is the will of my Father that sent Me: that every one who seeth the Son, and believeth in Him, may have life everlasting, and I will raise him up in the last day" (St. John 6: 40). Now, can our Lord deceive us in what concerns our reward and resurrection to eternal life? Utterly impossible! We have a faithful God, who cannot otherwise foretell things but as He knows they will occur.

Go in thought to the dead daughter of the ruler of the synagogue, to the widow's son of Naim, to Lazarus, whose body had already begun to decay in the grave. The first of these Jesus took by the hand while He was still in the mortal body. The second case cost Him just as few words. In the third case He only spoke somewhat louder. The command of this voice was enough to bring back the souls and unite them with the bodies they had left, and they who were dead became alive again in the presence of many spectators. At the death and resurrection of Christ did not many bodies, which had already long crumbled into dust, and whose ashes had been scattered over the earth, come out of their graves and appear living in the city of Jerusalem? If the Son of God was then able to do so much by merely speaking a few words; if the servants of God afterwards had the power of raising the dead by the bare mention of the name of Jesus Christ, must the same Son of God have less might and power over the dead when He will cite them before his judgment-seat, although we cannot understand how He will do that? Again, consider the stars in the firmament, the birds in the air, the fishes in the sea, the animals and men on earth, and yourself amongst them; where do they come from? A few thousand years ago they were not. Ask them who is the Master of all those creatures, and they will all answer you: "Know ye that the Lord He is God; He made us, and not we ourselves" (Ps. 99: 3).

Poor Job did not require all those proofs. Hear this wonderful man preaching from his dunghill as from a pulpit: "Who will grant me that my words may be written?" so that all may be able to read them. "Who will grant me that they may be marked down in a book with an iron pen, and in a plate of lead, or else be graven with an instrument in flint-stone?" that they may never be obliterated or forgotten. With what dignity this holy man commences his discourse! Certainly the doctrine He is about to deliver must be most weighty and worthy to be deeply impressed on the minds of men. And what is it? "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and in the last day I

shall rise out of the earth, and I shall be clothed again with my skin, and in my flesh I shall see my God, whom I myself shall see, and my eyes shall behold, and not another” (Job 19: 23-27).

I conclude in the words which St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians after he had explained to them the resurrection of the body: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast and immovable: always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15: 58). Again: “Denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live soberly, and justly, and godly in this world; looking for the blessed hope and coming of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Tit. 2: 12, 13). Upwards with your thoughts and desires! “Seek the things that are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God; mind the things that are above, not the things that are upon the earth” (Coloss. 3: 1, 2). Why do we grub so long like moles in the mud of this vale of tears? The earth is not our lasting habitation; we have a far happier fatherland, to which we approach as traveling pilgrims nearer and nearer every day, to live there forever. If things go well with us for a time here below let us say to ourselves: after all, what is the good of all this? These are not the joys that can content me; unhappy indeed should I be if I had nothing better to expect! And if what the world calls adversity assails us, then let us think: after all, what does it matter? This is not the place where I am to find happiness, and my tears shall not flow very long; the resurrection, the divine life, a blissful immortality which Jesus Christ has won for me by his Passion and death awaits me. With this hope I will console myself in the time of suffering; with this hope I will arm myself against all temptations, that I may never offend my God; with this hope I will daily spur myself on to serve God truly and constantly to the end according to my state and condition, that after my resurrection I may go body and soul “where Christ is sitting on the right hand of God.” Amen.



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