

Easter Sunday — The Glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ

I rose up and am still with thee. - Psalm 138:18

Excerpts from *The Mystical City of God*

Then, in the presence of all those saints, by the ministry of those Angels, were restored to the deceased sacred body all the parts and relics, which they had gathered, leaving It in Its natural integrity and perfection. At the very same moment the most Holy Soul of the Lord reunited with the body and thus gave It immortal life and glory. Instead of the sheet and the ointments in which It had been buried, It became clothed with the four gifts of glory: clarity, impassibility, agility and subtleness (John 19, 40). These gifts overflow in the deified body of the immense glory of the soul of our good lord, Jesus Christ.

Although these gifts were due as if by natural inheritance and participation from the instant of Its conception, because from that moment on His most holy soul was glorified and united to the Divinity by His most innocent humanity; yet they had been suspended in their effects upon the purest body, in order to permit It to remain passible and capable of meriting for us our own glory. In the Resurrection these gifts were restored by the Angels, calling on the justice of His merits, in the proper proportion corresponding to the glory of His soul and to His union with the Divinity.

As the glory of the most Holy Soul of Christ our Savior is incomprehensible and ineffable for our limited capacity, it is also impossible to explain completely with words and examples the glory and the gifts of His deified body; because with respect to Its purity, crystal would be deemed to be dark. The light contained therein and shining forth from His body so far exceeds that of the other glorious bodies, as the day does the night, or as a thousand suns to a single star; and all the beauty of all creatures, were it to be joined into one, would appear ugly in comparison with His, as there is nothing similar to It in all that has been created.

“He is risen, he is not here; see the tomb where they laid him.” - *Mark 16:6*

Excerpt from *The Mystical City of God*, vol. iii,
by Sister Mary of Jesus of Agreda as manifested by Our Lady
Translated from the original Spanish by Jan Paul von Wendt

A little before the Marys thought and spoke of the difficulty of removing the stone, a violent and wonderful quaking or trembling of the earth took place; at the same time an Angel of the Lord opened the sepulchre and cast aside the stone that covered and obstructed the entrance (Matth. 28, 2). At this noise and the earthquake the guards of the sepulchre fell prostrate to the earth, struck motionless with fear and consternation, although they did not see the Lord.

For the body of the Lord was no more in the grave; He had already arisen and issued from the monument before the Angel cast aside the stone. The Marys, though in some fear, took heart and were comforted by God to approach and enter the monument. Near the entrance they saw the Angel who had rolled aside the stone seated upon it, refulgent in countenance and in snow-white garments (Mark 16, 5). He spoke to them saying: "*Be not afraid; I know you seek Jesus the Nazarene. He is not here, He is risen. Enter and you will see the place where they laid Him.*"

The Marys entered, and seeing the sepulchre vacant they were filled with great grief; for they were still more focused on the affect of seeing Him, than to the testimony of the Angel. Then they saw two other Angels seated at each end of the sepulchre, who said to them: "*Why seek you the Living among the dead? Remember how He Himself said to you when he was in Galilee (Luke 26, 4-5), that He was to rise on the third day. Go and give the news to the disciples and Peter, that He goeth before you into Galilee, where you shall see Him*" (Mark 16, 7).

The Paschal Homily of Saint John Chrysostom for the Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ - *Composed d. 407 CE*

If anyone is devout and a lover of God,
let him enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival.
If anyone is a wise servant,
let him, rejoicing, enter into the joy of his Lord.
If anyone has wearied himself in fasting,
let him now receive his recompense.
If anyone has labored from the first hour,
let him today receive his just reward.

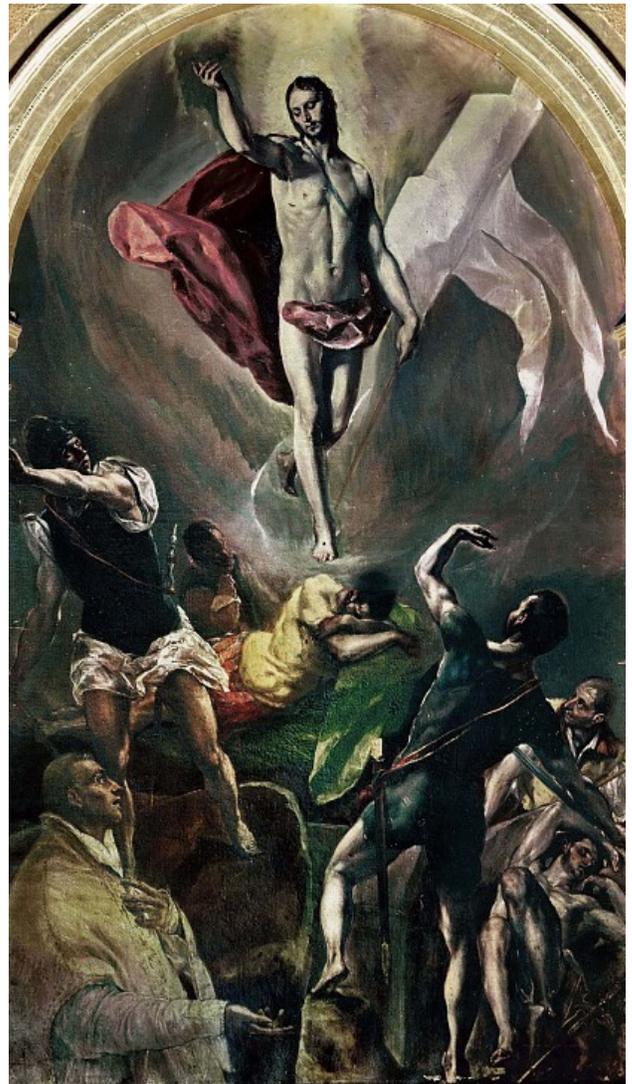
If anyone has come at the third hour,
with thanksgiving let him keep the feast.
If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour,
let him have no misgivings;
for he shall suffer no loss.
If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour,
let him draw near without hesitation.
If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour,
let him not fear on account of his delay.
For the Master is gracious and receives the last, even as the first;
he gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour,
just as to him who has labored from the first.
He has mercy upon the last and cares for the first;
to the one he gives, and to the other he is gracious.
He both honors the work and praises the intention.
Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord,
and, whether first or last, receive your reward.
O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy!
O you ascetics and you negligent, celebrate the day!
You that have fasted and you that have disregarded the fast,
rejoice today!
The table is rich-laden; feast royally, all of you!
The calf is fatted; let no one go forth hungry!
Let all partake of the feast of faith.
Let all receive the riches of goodness.
Let no one lament his poverty,
for the universal kingdom has been revealed.
Let no one mourn his transgressions,
for pardon has dawned from the grave.
Let no one fear death,
for the Saviour's death has set us free.
He that was taken by death has annihilated it!
He descended into Hades and took Hades captive!
He embittered it when it tasted his flesh!
And anticipating this Isaiah exclaimed,
"Hades was embittered when it encountered
thee in the lower regions."
It was embittered, for it was abolished!
It was embittered, for it was mocked!
It was embittered, for it was purged!
It was embittered, for it was despoiled!
It was embittered, for it was bound in chains!
It took a body and, face to face, met God!
It took earth and encountered heaven!
It took what it saw but crumbled before what it had not seen!
"O death, where is thy sting?
O Hades, where is thy victory?"
Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!
Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is risen, and life reigns!
Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a tomb!
For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the First-fruits of
them that slept.
To him be glory and might unto ages of ages. Amen

Regina Coeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, Alleluia!
For He whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia!
Has risen, as He said, Alleluia!
Pray for us to God, Alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia!
For the Lord has truly risen, Alleluia!

Let us pray,
O God, who gave joy to the world through the
resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we
beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin
Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting
life. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen*



The Resurrection - by: El Greco