

Easter Sunday – April 5, 2015

This is not a commercial, but surely you know those Geico TV ads that say, “Fifteen minutes could save you 15 percent on car insurance.” Another voice says, “Everybody knows that.” What’s implied here? That everyone accepts the statement as true, but it’s no big deal; it’s not really exciting. Perhaps it was at one time, but now it’s not especially important.

Now imagine this scenario. One person says, “Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.” Another says, “Everybody knows that. Yes, it happened, but why is it important? Is it just a nice thing that happened to Jesus? Or is there more? Why is it important to believe that Jesus rose from the dead?”

If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, then we are being short-changed. But the truth is that Christ has been raised, the first in a long legacy of people who are going to leave the cemeteries. And the good news is that we are being raised with Jesus too, even now.

It’s no accident that the Church bids us to renew our baptismal promises today. We follow Jesus by choice. We are not compelled to be here, to seek to abide by our commitment to Christ and to the Church. We know the costs, too. Yes, we are painfully aware of our own stumbling’s. We are also painfully aware of the all-too-human face of the Church. But where else shall we go? There are no finished symphonies anywhere else, except in Jesus Christ.

We Christians do not draw our sustenance from good and gracious ideas. The world offers lots of good and gracious ideas. We draw our sustenance from the death and rising of Jesus. We proudly proclaim this as our good news. Even more, we make real the death and rising of Jesus in our lives right now. All of us are given some sacred space to redeem.

And so, each time we begin to love again after being rejected, we share in the death and rising of Jesus. Each time we pick up the pieces, hope against hope, wipe our tears, face the sun and start again, we share in the power of Jesus’ resurrection. Each time we gather as a People of God to be nourished at the table of the Word and at the table of the Eucharist, we share in the power of our risen Lord.

We can rise to the occasion today. It’s Easter Sunday. Can we rise to the occasion tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow? We can, if we let the risen Jesus into our lives more and more. Welcome him as a friend, with trust. He is life! Happy Easter!