



## **Fr. Matt's Musings** *Easter, 2017*

### ***Happy Easter - He is Risen just as he said!***

Some of my priest friends and I agree that Easter is a difficult Sunday for a homilist. At first, the followers of Christ had difficulty choosing the words to express their experience of Easter and the Risen Christ. This Easter, maybe the images of the three days of the Holy Triduum will offer an entree into the power of redemption and the new life of this season:

#### **Holy Thursday and Foot Washing Love**

Jesus does not utter a word before this action but simply rises from the table to stoop down to wash the feet of his disciples who are horrified by this action. Teacher and Master is washing the dirt and sweat and smells off their feet. What an image to show that God chooses, in Jesus' example, to insert God's own self into the messiness, ugliness, smelliness and darkness of our lives, and that insertion is to inject divine love into all the moments of our living: even Peter's denial and all the other ugly moments and actions of Jesus' closest followers during this evening before his death.

#### **Good Friday and Crucifixion**

Our Lord and Savior is unjustly condemned and a victim of capital punishment. Yet, from the cross, he forgives his executioners and all others associated with his death. In this, he furthers his explanation of divine love by outstretched arms that embrace human frailty, weakness and sinfulness. I write this musing on Good Friday and its invitation for me to bring all of my sinfulness, weakness and ugliness to Christ. Good Friday always precedes Easter.

#### **Easter's Empty Tomb**

Love wins. Life is stronger than death. Love conquers evil. The death tomb is empty with all its fear, shame, darkness, injustice and lovelessness. The empty tomb is the image of Jesus' victory over death and all that surrounded his death. But it is also the need we have to empty ourselves of all that prevents us from accepting the new life Christ offers us this Easter. Let us leave all of our fear, anxiety, jealousy, pride, anger, and need(s) to control, to be right, to be perfect, to be liked, and most importantly, to tell God how to be God. Let's simply accept God's love on God's terms and allow that love to transform us into that same Divine, Triduum love which helps us to: enter into the messiness of human, daily living (Holy Thursday - carrying water and a towel with us); to realize that mercy and forgiveness do not change the past but they make for a larger, brighter future (Good

Friday - wearing and carrying our cross with confidence); and empty the tombs of our hearts of all lovelessness and lifelessness to embrace the God who is here and now, offering new life and divine love to share with all God's people (emptying our tombs but with renewed hearts).

Happy Easter!

*Fr. Matt*

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