

Easter Sunday

Young Ernie and his family were invited to have Easter Sunday lunch at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Ernie received his plate, he started eating straight away.

'Ernie, wait until we say grace,' demanded his father.

'I don't have to,' the five-year-old replied.

'Of course, you do, Ernest,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

'That's at our house,' Ernie explained, 'but this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook.'

Dear Friends,

Today we are rejoicing with the whole church that our Lord Jesus Christ has Risen from the dead for us. I wish all of you a happy Easter. This year as a parish, we will focus on the theme, "Discipleship". Discipleship is nothing but being faithful followers of Jesus Christ and helping more people to become disciples; like Andrew brought Peter to Jesus by saying "we have found Messiah" (John1: 41). Jesus' resurrection needs many witnesses. In other words, Easter needs more witnesses. Those apostles became the witnesses for Jesus' resurrection from Jerusalem to the end of the world.

The readings today are the personal witness accounts of the disciples and other people who were with Jesus at that time. In the first reading from the Book of Acts, Peter spoke about how Christianity was open to the gentiles. With the resurrection of Jesus, there was transformation in the church life and people's minds. He says that God has chosen him in advance to be the witness. Peter stresses that God's message was sent first to Israel, then to a smaller group of witnesses to reach the people of Israel, and then the message is universal.

In the second reading, St. Paul says, "Through Jesus' resurrection, our life which is hidden in him, will appear in glory with him." We share the resurrection within us.

Easter is not a thing. Not even a day, but an action. An action in reality. So, we imagine Easter as a verb.

In the Gospel, we see three people's witnesses. Mary Magdalene has been Eastered. She was the first faithful disciple to come to the tomb in the early morning. She became the witness, and that discovery set her in motion to be an evangelization to Simon Peter, and the beloved Disciple John, causing them to run and see the tomb. The discipleship begins here and continues to flourish.

Peter has been Eastered. The disciple who denied Jesus three times understood and saw the victory of Jesus. He realized himself as a witness to the Jesus event, commissioned to preach and testify.

God chose ordinary people as his witnesses and disciples. Today we are called to be his disciples and witnesses. They all saw and believed and became disciples. Let us believe in what we see in every Eucharist where we celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. Let us become Easter witnesses, and become good disciples and evangelize by our words and life to make more disciples for Jesus, our Lord.