

Faster 2010

April 2, 2010

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
Rev. Jeff McGowan

1ST READING: (THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD)

PSALM 51

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good for his mercy endures forever.

EPISTLE: ROMANS 6:3-11

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe we shall also live with him.

GOSPEL: LUKE 24:1-12

At day break, on the first day of the week..

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I was having trouble with my computer so I called one of my friends and he put his 13 year old son on the phone. He told me to click on this and then click on that; two clicks and the problem was fixed. I was stunned. I told Niko that I had been frustrated by over an hour of messing with it. As we were about to hang up, I asked him, "So, what was wrong?" He replied, "It was an id-ten-t error." I didn't want to appear stupid but nonetheless inquired: "An Id ten t error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again." Niko sighed over the phone, "Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?" "No," I replied. "Write it down," he said, "you'll figure it out."

So I wrote down: **I d i o t** (*using the smart pad*)...I used to like that kid.

It is difficult in well worn human words to do justice to the joy of Easter. It is always most difficult to be, do and believe what is closest to who we are. God has done something spectacular far from what is purely thought and feeling, yet it is where we learn who we are as mortal children of the earth. **[Earth picture]** Earth is where we belong, where we are at home, we are too much children of the earth to want to leave it forever one day. And so, we are here on the earth, our home, but it is not enough. What are we to do?

A husband and wife are preparing dinner and hear the news that an earthquake had struck the region where their daughter is with a group from her college working on a water sanitation project. Mom starts dialing her daughter's cell phone. Nothing. Dad calls the college. College officials know nothing as yet.

Mom keeps trying, again and again she dials her daughter's cell. Their world comes to a stop. The hours become days. The parents are conscious only that the cell phone does not ring and they are holding each other's hand as they pray. The television remains on, but the widespread devastation in the pictures begins to undermine their hope. Finally the cell phone beeps. A text message: *Mom & Dad, am OK will call L.* Twenty-four hours later, they are reunited at the airport. Mom & Dad realize immediately the nightmare their daughter has experienced. Libby understands by the lines on her parents faces what they have been through. Everyone is crying. In the pure light of their joy, they realize how much they mean to each other. In hugging their beautiful daughter, the parents realize how empty their lives would be without her. In the safety of their embrace, Libby understands how unconditionally and totally she is loved. In this family it is a new dawn. They have each other and now know that everything else is "small stuff." Their reunion is an Easter daybreak; a morning that changed them forever. Like Peter they went home amazed at what had happened.

Listen to the message of the resurrection of the Lord. Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God and son of Mary, a man of both the magnificence of heaven and the beauty of the earth, has died. He offered his suffering and death for the forgiveness of we who know not what we do by our closed minds and hearts and stubborn willfulness. He has risen from the dead—body and soul rise as one—and therefore, God has shown that he takes the earth into Gods-own-self forever. We express our faith in this resurrection; even so, it is HIS deed. This earth which we love so much as our home is still a threatening place of earthquakes, floods, and human cruelty, yet is loved as well by God who reveals Himself as Jesus of Nazareth. An earthling by birth through Mary; one who knows intimately the love of human parents and friends; one who knows how humans suffer from disease, handicaps and mental struggles; one who felt betrayal, bullying and torture; this one invites us to follow him. He offers to break open the tombs of our minds and hearts as only love and forgiveness can. As we receive his body and blood may he open us to his light, that we may know what is really essential and what is "small stuff," and that in amazement we will change our lives so we

participate in the tremendous movement of all earthly reality toward its own glory, which has begun in Christ's resurrection. That is the Good News!