

# The Lord Has Risen

We are midway through the Lenten season of grace, on the way to Easter. We follow Him who said, “I am the way...”, in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Holy Father’s new book is entitled “The Name of God is Mercy”. “If today, you hear His voice harden not your hearts.” Heb. 3:7 The mercy of God prevails, for it is He: “who knows and loves each individual and who knows what we need.” Matthew 6: Just like the good Samaritan, God picks us up from the side of the road and binds up our wounds. This gives rise to the image of the church as a “field hospital”. Or again the good shepherd who goes after the one that is lost, in the thicket—puts that one on his shoulder, to be carried back to koinonia—community.

It was St. Augustine who said, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee.” So what is God’s mercy, but God’s willingness to descend into our chaos. Chaos means living in uncertainty, with nothing to hold on to and no security. At creation the Holy Spirit hovered over chaos, bringing order. In our chaos, God extends the hand of mercy in our uncertainty, to raise us up. Believing in mercy, says we are not alone, for we have Emmanuel—God with us.

The Holy Father says: “Anyone who enters by the Holy Door, will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope.” “A clean heart create for me, O God.” Psalm 51:12

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, may this special grace be a blessing to our parish family and individual members. We pray for renewed healing and transformation into an Easter people. With hearts made ready, may we hasten toward Easter with all the eagerness of Faith and Love.

If you have been away from the Sacraments, no matter how long, we invite you to come to Confession at our great communal celebration of mercy, with 15 priests, Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 pm. What better way to meet the God of Mercy than the Sacrament of Mercy. Where else will you hear your sins are forgiven and go in peace? A young person after Mass said, “I want to come to that.”

Do not let this year of mercy pass you by as we prepare for the glory of Easter. Christ descended into chaos and rose gloriously on Easter morning, when we proclaim, “The Lord is Risen, Alleluia!” and so have we.

Do join us in the Holy Week liturgies beginning with Palm Sunday and the Paschal Triduum. Included in the Triduum is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Holy Thursday from 8:30pm through Midnight. We are so grateful to the Liturgy Committee who inspire these liturgies of the Paschal Mystery.

Our parish Gala is Saturday, April 9, 2016. If you have not yet bought your tickets, I urge you to do so. Early bird prices end on March 20th. We thank Rowena Treitler and M.J. Wittman, and their families for the time they have given chairing this event.

We look forward to the Easter season when we will celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with the RCIA Candidates and Elect and 3 First Communion Masses in April and Confirmation Mass on May 14th. Please pray for these students as they prepare to receive these sacraments.

On behalf of Fr. Ed, Fr. John, and the staff, I wish you the blessings of a glorious Easter.

Happy Easter!



Rev. Nicholas Clavin  
Pastor