

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter    May 26, 2017    St. Agnes Church

*With hocked gems financing him, our hero bravely defied all scornful laughter that tried to prevent his scheme. "Your eyes deceive" said some. "It is like an table, not an egg," said others. Now three sturdy sisters sought truth. Forging along, sometimes through calm vastness, yet more often over turbulent peaks and valleys. Days become weeks as many doubters spread fearful rumors about the edge. At last, from nowhere, winged creatures appeared, signifying momentous success.*

Say what! Let me read it again.

Sounds like a bunch of gobble-dee-gook. It makes no sense. That is, unless you have the key. And I have the key. A few words unlock the meaning of all this gibberish. With a few words all these sentences will fall into place: Christopher Columbus.

Life is like this passage: a bunch of gobble-dee-gook. Disjointed, fragmented, confusing experiences event after event all strung together but making little sense. There is a key. One word that opens the door to understanding. With one word all the various parts of life come together. The word: Resurrection.

As Jesus tries to prepare his disciples for what lies ahead, their heads are spinning. "What does this mean? What does that mean? Why are you speaking to us in riddles?" And I'm sure some of the disciples were optimists: the glass is half full. And some of the disciples were more inclined to focus on the less positive side: the glass is half empty. But Jesus proves both of these approaches to be inadequate. Jesus says: "you're missing the point. The truth is...the glass will be refilled." The disciples couldn't understand this until the glass was refilled, until Jesus rose from the dead. Whatever was lacking in the disciples' faith, their experience of the Risen Lord, filled them to overflowing.

As Christians, we've been given the gift of a full glass. Jesus is victorious over sin and death. But then we look at the world and what it offers: unrestrained and unrestricted sexual pleasure, riches and wealth for the taking if you're strong, educated, inventive, willing to take advantage of the simple and the ignorant; a life free of suffering; the promise of a perfect society built on human/technological ingenuity. We look at these things and are tempted to set aside the full glass we have and drink from a different cup.

As Christians, the glass we have been given is full. But what good is a full glass if we never drink from it. We have to do more than just "think" about the resurrection. We have to move beyond an imaginary encounter. Resurrection cannot remain a vicarious experience. We admire people like Mother Theresa of Calcutta. Can you imagine all she had to die to in order to care for the dying poor? That's the problem: we only imagine. Until we are willing to die to the same fears, the same obstacles, drain the glass through our own sacrifice believing it will be filled again..... we've only thought of resurrection.

Like Christopher Columbus, let us defy those who claim "your eyes deceive". Let us forge beyond doubts, reach beyond the edge of sight, push past the rumors that all is lost in death. Let us set sail on the seas of time in the ship we call "faith". Resurrection is a promise: winged creatures will appear rejoicing as we arrive at journey's end: the shores of eternity.

Today's prayer: "O Lord, on wings of faith, carry us through the sorrow, the mourning, the grief that comes with living the Gospel of Jesus Christ Your Son. Help us to know and experience the joy of resurrection. Amen!"