



“And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep”. And He came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And He gave him to his mother.



We cannot console the sorrow of the mother who loses her son. What could we say, what could we do? We hear and touch sorrows like that at the mission at times but the miracle does not happen. The most we can do is to mourn together with the mother as we see the community doing in the gospel today. The loss of the son and the suffering of the mother bring the community together. There is a dignity that the community finds in the sorrow of the mother and in the loss of her son, in the brokenness

she experiences. Somehow, everything else becomes secondary. And it should. If this does not touch our soul and take us from the indifference of the other, then what else would? Today we wonder why the so many sorrows leave the community indifferent. There is a mourning that happens in secret and the mother cries alone. A mother should never cry alone. The gospel tells us that God sees the pain of the mother. It touches Him and He is touching the coffin. God never leaves this pain alone. Even on the cross He sees that pain and He comforts it:

“Woman, here is your son.” 27 Then He said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. (John 19: 26-27)

The comfort for a mother who lost her son is only his resurrection.:*“Young man I say to you arise.”* If the sorrow is deep, the joy has to go deeper, not only to heal the wound but to embrace it. The deep sorrow of the mother asks to encounter a joy never experienced before. If there is no greater human sorrow than the loss of the one who is really loved, then it means the reality of the resurrection should be the deepest one a human heart can

experience.

"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." *John 20:19-3100*



On Thursday there was the feast of the apostle Thomas. And we listened to the gospel that we hear during the Vespers of Love, when Thomas demands to see the risen Christ. This time his lack of faith seemed more human and justified. It was the sorrow caused by not seeing and not embracing the one he loved. Why would a disciple desire anything else? To hear about the resurrection of Christ and not to be able to embrace Him and to touch Him; to be refused this joy. Who can really live that with faith?

Thomas wanted this joy, he was longing for it in his heart. All the other apostles experienced it, why not him? It was burning him. He was the only one who had missed it. He did not want to leave his heart with questions but to drink fully from this joy. Who would not desire that? How was he going to reconcile that loss with faith?

"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." *(Thursday gospel)*

But in the chapel we heard Jesus' voice clearly speaking to Thomas. There is something deeper than the joy of the resurrection in the human heart. Who knows if "deeper" is the right word? Forgiveness of sins is the universality of the personal encounter with the resurrection of the Beloved. We see that with the apostle Thomas, the prayer that asks for the encounter with the risen Christ is answered by God. We can experience this personal joy if we desire it and pray for it. Christ tells us that blessed are those who have not had this personal encounter and yet they partake and share in the forgiveness that universally brings the risen Christ to all.

It is so today with the cry in secret and unattended by the personal joy of the resurrection of those who are lost. The tear that is shed in the solitude of the heart when embraced by the forgiveness for those who did wrong (even if that means for your own soul), brings about a blessing upon the community that can no longer escape the reality and universality of the good news. It leads to the path where sharing together in the personal encounter of the risen Christ is real.

It is the church who knows this because through her saints she experiences this forgiveness. The church prays today when there is no hope at the loss of the innocents

because the church is called to live and proclaim the reality of forgiveness. Because forgiveness heals what was harmed in us in the same way the resurrection healed the wounds of Christ which Thomas wanted to touch.

Thanksgiving within the community during the week

Thanksgiving and Praise - Isaiah chapter 12

12 You will say in that day:

*I will give thanks to you, O Lord,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
and you comforted me.*

2 Surely God is my salvation;

*I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God[a] is my strength and my might;
He has become my salvation.*

3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4 And you will say in that day:

*Give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.*

5 Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;

let this be known[b] in all the earth.

6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

When we asked a question related to forgiveness on Thursday the temperature in the room changed. Not because people became uncomfortable, but only because all of us answered as honestly as we could. And all of us touched on the reality of a struggle that gives hope to our soul.

For a while, I could not understand why Mary said that thanksgiving was more important to her, no matter how good forgiveness was. Her words stayed with me. It happens to all of us to say things at times without processing them much. However, it felt to me that Mary's words had some real meaning for her that I could not see and understand. We had just come out from the chapel where we discovered in the scripture that the fabric of the resurrection is forgiveness.

Next day, Laura pointed me to Isaiah, chapter 2. "Thanksgiving and praise". All of a sudden she shows me the chapter. I should read it, she says, because Thanksgiving is coming. Which we did, in the chapel, after the service and we tried to reflect on it. It was Eliana who said that Thanksgiving is the only way in which man can answer to God. The only answer

needed when the good is completed entirely.

God comforts men who sinned and brought death into the world, with the resurrection of His Son. The anger of God and the sorrow of His silence are turned, through the cross, into comfort and joy for man. Through forgiveness we share with each other in the personal encounter with the risen Lord. The joy we want to see and touch and experience is given to us as unworthy as we are. Those who lack this personal joy, bring about the blessing upon the community because within their abandoned sorrow somehow they find the faith to forgive the wrong that was done.

Thanksgiving is the prefiguration of the perfect promise of God at the end of time. When the perfected good would be revealed and man would not keep silent about it anymore.

If God would keep silent then it would not be due to the sorrow who was not there anymore but rather to mirror with understanding the faith of those who brought upon the earth the blessing it lacked. The blessing of those who do not have now the joy but rather the faith to forgive the wrong that was done. Even today no one is attentive to them.

Mission church collections of 1 Sunday : Oct 2 2022 Donations \$890, candle box \$23.30

Prayer list for the sick and those who have recovered:

Peter; Jose, George, Mihaela, Richard; Bernadette, Elisha; Kayla; Harley, Maria and Carlos; Omar; Elisabeth; Ben, Kim: George; Bernadette, Maria Becatam ;Seena; Ocean ,Tony, Nikitha; Dianne; Joy; Susie; Alex; Maurice; Lynn; Molly; Thomas; Varghese; Delia; Leela; Mary; Tanya; Basma; Aditi; Larry; Darius; Lori; Lisa; Cindy; Césare; Fatima; Debbie; Donald; Hermina; Raúl; EK Thomas; Nebu; Evangelia; Sarah; Shelley; Bill; Ruth, Kristian and Frank; Maria; Binja ; Mike; Luke; Anusia; Lavalin's son; Sana; Father George Patrick, and Father Michael Miklos/Pani Karen Miklos; Dominique and her daughter; Mike; Luke; Arjuna; Joy; Susie; Alex; Lynn; Molly'; Thomas; Alex; Fathima; Frank; Chris; Evlokia; Mikayla and Luca; Karunawathi, Gloria, Vijekumari, Ronda, and Regina; Delia; Valerie; Tom; Traian; Peter; Marco; Kim; Tihomir; Kate; Payton Clark; Sana, and her family in Egypt; Isaiah; Mary; Sydney; Peter; Christine; Stephanie; Iulia; Jason; Sophia; Alexander; Charles; Tom; Paul; Phillip and his wife Juliet; Cristeena; Ann brown's daughter; Silvia; Jincy; Shiron Crisreen; Allain; Seena and her husband; Waheeda and children; Faizah; Shirin and her family; Cristina; Daniela, Jerry; Delia ; Ragaie; Victoria; Mike; Farida; Roselyne and family ; Ana; Cornelia; Leon; Jerry; Ocean; Gloria; Anne; Marina; Marie; Edemene; Joanna and family; Rejoice; Romana, Coline, Michael, Peter, Henry, George, Kelly; Tom; Marina; Kumari; Susan; child James; Aaron; Sylvia; Fr Jonathan; Tharshini and her two children; Ann Tyron and her family; Sandra Gomaz's children; Sameen; Sophia; Amy; Swetha and children; Charitha; Jitesh's parents; Demene; Carol; Gloria; Hawa Bibi; Vimaladevi; Fr. John and Pani Marie; Lynn; Michelle; Emanuel(Mani); Stefanie; Geoff; Joey; Evangelia; Sophia; Melanie; Tanya; Piper; Darius; Zamalk; Nelly; Nahla; Mira; Sandral; Brenda; Vol; Gomaz; ; Helen; Paul; Wafaa. Fr David; Pani Donna

Please pray for the deceased: Fr Tony; Zatia; Tom; Fred; Shrin; Andre; Andree; Akhir; Arjuna; Dillon; Elena; Pani Mary; Rejoice`s mother; Edmund; Pani Eleanor; Fr John; Alexandru; Constantin; Robert; Fr Aurel; Georgi; Rada; Petre; Stela; William; Samuel; Debbie; John; Amy, Willie; Dave`s wife; Ana; Shirin`s cousin in Jordan; Father Lawrence; Dave; Anne Tyran`s father; Edith, Sr. Mary Magdalene; Joice; BettyAnn; James; Pauanasuy Kamthasang; Maria; Andrei; Agostina; Carminda; Vimaladevi's sister; Sri's mother; Carol's Mother and 23 year old nephew; Demene`s mother, Dalalzaki.