

Easter Sunday Homily

April 4, 2021

Father Pierre Champoux

Yesterday, I read a beautiful 2nd century passage from my breviary, about what Jesus did on the eve of the Resurrection. Not only did Jesus die to save the souls of the living. He also died for the souls of the deceased:

“Jesus has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory...Jesus took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: ‘awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.’

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants, I now, by my own authority, command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me, and I am in you...The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven...The throne formed by cherubim awaits you...The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all

good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.”

Before us today, stands the Easter candle, which was lit at last night's Easter Vigil. The Easter candle reminds us, that even in the darkest night, Jesus is the light of the world, trampling on death by death, and that the darkness can never overcome His light!

Today is our victory day! The demons are put to flight, the souls of the faithful departed are raised from the dead, and the gates of paradise are thrust open! May we recall this Word of Scripture, and make it our own:

“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!”