They saw and believed: Easter Sunday

April 10, 2017

Readings:

Acts 10, 34, 37-43

Psalm 118: 1-16-17: 22-23

Colossians 3: 1-4

John 20: 1-9

In today's Gospel, Jesus is not seen anywhere. However, it shows us that Peter and John "saw and believed."

What did you see? Funerary canvases that lay on the floor of an empty tomb. Perhaps that convinced them that the body had not been robbed by tomb robbers, who often took away the expensive funeral linens and left the corpses.

It is notorious the repetition of the word "tomb": seven times in nine verses. They saw the empty tomb and believed what Christ had promised: that God would raise him up on the third day.

As the first reading tells us today, the apostles were chosen to be "his witnesses" and were "left in charged with ... preaching ... and testifying" to all who had not seen; From the anointing of Jesus with the Holy Spirit in the Jordan to the empty tomb.

Beyond their own experience, they were instructed in the mysteries of God's divine economy, God's plan of salvation, to know that all the prophets had testified about Him (Luke 24, 27-44)

Now they could "understand the Scriptures"; They could teach us all that He had told them: that He was "the stone which the builders rejected," from whom the psalm of today prophesied His resurrection and exaltation (Luke 20:17, Mt 21,42, Acts 4,11).

We are the children of apostolic witnesses. That is why we continue to gather the first day of each week, early in the morning, to celebrate the feast of the empty tomb and give thanks for Christ's "life of ours", as the epistle of today calls it.

Baptized in his death and resurrection, we live the heavenly life of the risen Christ and our lives are "hidden with Christ in God." Now we are also his witnesses. But we bear testimony of things we cannot see, but only believe; we seek in the things of the earth what is above.

We live in the memory of the testimony of the apostles. Like them, we eat and drink with the risen Lord on the altar. And we wait with hope for what the apostles told us it would come: the day when we too "will appear with Him in glory."