

To Ponder

Dying into Life

By Richard Rohr (Homily delivered March 27, 2016)

Jesus' resurrection is not so much a miracle that we can argue about, believe or disbelieve, but an invitation to look deeper at the pattern of death and rising in all that is human. Jesus, or any member of "the Body of Christ," cannot really die because we are all participating in something eternal—the Universal Christ that has existed "from the beginning."

Death is not just the death of the physical body, but all the times we hit bottom and must let go of how we thought life should be and surrender to a Larger Power. And in that sense, we all probably go through many deaths in our lifetime. These deaths to the small self are tipping points, opportunities to choose transformation early. Unfortunately, many people turn bitter and look for someone to blame. So their death is indeed death for them, because they close down to growth and new life.

But if you do choose to walk through the depths—even the depths of your own sin and mistakes—you will come out the other side, knowing you've been taken there by a Source larger than yourself. Surely this is what it means to be saved. Being saved doesn't mean that you are any better than anyone else or will be whisked off into heaven. It means you've allowed and accepted the mystery of transformation here and now.

If we are to speak of miracles, the most miraculous thing of all is that God uses the very thing that would normally destroy you—the tragic, sorrowful, painful or unjust—to transform and enlighten you. Now you are indestructible; there are no dead ends. This is what we mean when we say we are "saved by the death and resurrection of Jesus." This is not a one-time cosmic transaction, but the constant pattern of all growth and change. Jesus is indeed saving the world by guiding us through all would-be deaths to a life that is always bigger than death.

Reading

Acts 2 :22-26

Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him.

This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

David said about him:

"I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,
because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.
You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence."

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...



Song

Sing Alleluia! by Liam Lawton

Now is the moment to greet the new day
Our hopes and our dreams to bring
Now is the moment for Christians to pray,
To celebrate, dance and sing.

Now we are called to come to one place
as saints have done before.
Now is the moment to walk in God's grace
and lift our voices evermore.

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Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia!
Sing allelu, sing allelu, sing alleluia!

Here we now share in the life giving bread,
And drink of the cup divine.
Here as the body of Christ we are fed,
And love is our hope and sign.

Strengthened in faith, we carry the light
Revealing God's new day
Here we are sent forth to banish the night,
Our God beside us on our way

REFRAIN

Thank You For Joining Us!

Your Prayer Leader

Syndie Eardly
4/3/18

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Renew • Refresh • Refocus

Our prayer is characterized by silence
Be still and know that I am God

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.