



Realizing

that the tomb is empty:
the Lord is alive
and goes before us

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34, 37-43;
Psalm 118;
Colossians 3:1-4;
Jn. 20:1-9
or Mk. 16:1-7

Who will roll back the stone for us? (Mk. 16:3)

To rediscover hope...this is the longing and the need of many individuals and entire populations today. It's something easy to say but hard to live. Some of our personal situations or the situations around us make hope seem impossible or, even worse, a false illusion. Death always seems to have the last word. A huge and heavy stone is trying to suffocate once and for all our yearning to change and our desire for a new life.

Comparing ideas with the people with whom we live and work, we tell each other that nothing will change, that our problems are insurmountable. Who can roll back the heavy stone that blocks our tomb? We are oppressed by thoughts of the future because it doesn't look very positive.

And if by chance something does change, if by chance a way opens before us, if by chance a new prospect appears on the horizon...we react with fear; we are incredulous because it seems impossible. At times, it is the young who point out these new paths to us but we don't believe them because we are afraid.

But the good God, who became a human being, who walks alongside humanity, does not dwell in places and thoughts that are focused on death and defeat. If we seek him among the tombs of dead rituals and devotions practiced without hope, we will never find him. The Lord has already left those places: he walks ahead of us. He is already in Galilee, ready to start afresh from where it all began and from where we first truly met him. The Lord still walks among his people: with the poor, the hungry, those thirsty for justice, the gentle and the peacemakers. That is where we will find him, and together with these brothers and sisters we can rediscover the fine thread of hope that has never been broken.

Fr. Luca Pandolfi

Prayer

Lord, they nailed you to a cross and killed you.
And along with you on that cross
they nailed and sought to kill
the yearning for justice and peace
nurtured by the pure of heart and gentle on this earth.

God, you are the Father and Mother
of every human being.

You rose to new life and freed us from death.

You rolled back the stone from our tombs
and showed us a new path of life and freedom.

Lord, open our eyes and our hearts.

Help us to see and believe.

Help us to begin our journey afresh,
following you in the midst of the world's inhabitants,
in the midst of all those who are searching for peace
and striving to build it.

