



# **Saint Maron**

## **Maronite Catholic Church**



**April 17-18, 2021**

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION**

### **URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS EASTER 2021**



Dear Brothers and Sisters, a good, happy and peaceful Easter!

Today, throughout the world, the Church's proclamation resounds: "Jesus, who was crucified, has risen as he said. Alleluia!"

The Easter message does not offer us a mirage or reveal a magic formula. It does not point to an escape from the difficult situation we are experiencing. The pandemic is still spreading, while the social and economic crisis remains severe, especially for the poor. Nonetheless – and this is scandalous – armed conflicts have not ended and military arsenals are being strengthened. That is today's scandal.

In the face of, or better, in the midst of this complex reality, the Easter message speaks concisely of the event that gives us the hope that does not disappoint: "Jesus who was crucified has risen". It speaks to us not about angels or ghosts, but about a man, a man of flesh and bone, with a face and a name: Jesus. The Gospel testifies that this Jesus, crucified under Pontius Pilate for claiming he was the Christ, the Son of God, rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, just as he had foretold to his disciples.

The crucified Jesus, none other, has risen from the dead. God the Father

raised Jesus, his Son, because he fully accomplished his saving will. Jesus took upon himself our weakness, our infirmities, even our death. He endured our sufferings and bore the weight of our sins. Because of this, God the Father exalted him and now Jesus Christ lives forever; he is the Lord.

The witnesses report an important detail: the risen Jesus bears the marks of the wounds in his hands, feet and side. These wounds are the everlasting seal of his love for us. All those who experience a painful trial in body or spirit can find refuge in these wounds and, through them, receive the grace of the hope that does not disappoint.

The risen Christ is hope for all who continue to suffer from the pandemic, both the sick and those who have lost a loved one. May the Lord give them comfort and sustain the valiant efforts of doctors and nurses. Everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us, requires assistance and has the right to have access to necessary care. This is even more evident in these times when all of us are called to combat the pandemic. Vaccines are an essential tool in this fight. I urge the entire international community, in a spirit of global responsibility, to commit to overcoming delays in the distribution of vaccines and to facilitate their distribution, especially in the poorest countries.

The crucified and risen Lord is comfort for those who have lost their jobs or experience serious economic difficulties and lack adequate social protection. May he inspire public authorities to act so that everyone, especially families in greatest need, will be offered the assistance needed for a decent standard of living. Sadly, the pandemic has dramatically increased the number of the poor and the despair of thousands of people.

Fr. Andrawos (Fadi) ElTabchi, Administrator | Fr. David Fisher, Consultant

Mrs. Rosemarie Marrone, Religious Education Director | Address: 1013 Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

Office: 215-389-2000 | Hall Reservations: 215-334-1884 | For Emergencies: 978-241-2977

Website: [www.saintmaron.org](http://www.saintmaron.org) | Church Office: [saintmaronphiladelphia@hotmail.com](mailto:saintmaronphiladelphia@hotmail.com) | Instagram Page: @saintmaronphiladelphia

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm.

“The poor of every kind must begin once more to hope”. Saint John Paul II spoke these words during his visit to Haiti. It is precisely to the beloved Haitian people that my thoughts turn in these days. I urge them not to be overwhelmed by difficulties, but to look to the future with confidence and hope. And my thoughts turn especially to you, my dear Haitian brothers and sisters. I am close to you and I want a definitive resolution to your problems. I am praying for this, dear Haitian brothers and sisters.

The risen Jesus is also hope for all those young people forced to go long periods without attending school or university, or spending time with their friends. Experiencing real human relationships, not just virtual relationships, is something that everyone needs, especially at an age when a person’s character and personality is being formed. We realized this clearly last Friday, in the Stations of the Cross composed by the children. I express my closeness to young people throughout the world and, in these days, especially to the young people of Myanmar committed to supporting democracy and making their voices heard peacefully, in the knowledge that hatred can be dispelled only by love.

May the light of the risen Jesus be a source of rebirth for migrants fleeing from war and extreme poverty. Let us recognize in their faces the marred and suffering face of the Lord as he walked the path to Calvary. May they never lack concrete signs of solidarity and human fraternity, a pledge of the victory of life over death that we celebrate on this day. I thank the nations that generously receive people who are suffering and seeking refuge. Lebanon and Jordan in particular are taking in many refugees who have fled from the conflict in Syria.

May the people of Lebanon, who are undergoing times of difficulty and uncertainty, experience the consolation of the Risen Lord and find support from the international community in their vocation to be a land of encounter, coexistence and pluralism.

May Christ our peace finally bring an end to the clash of arms in beloved and war-torn Syria, where millions of people are presently living in inhumane conditions; in Yemen, whose situation has met with a deafening and scandalous silence; and in Libya, where at last there is hope that a decade of bloody strife and clashes may come to an end. May all parties involved commit themselves effectively to ending conflicts and allowing war-weary peoples to live in peace and to begin the reconstruction of their respective countries.

The Resurrection naturally takes us to Jerusalem. On Jerusalem we ask the Lord to grant peace and security (cf. *Ps* 122), so that it can embrace its calling to be a place of encounter where all can see one another as brothers and sisters, and where Israelis and Palestinians will rediscover the power of dialogue for reaching a stable solution that will enable the two states to dwell side by side in peace and prosperity.

On this festive day, my thoughts also return to Iraq, which I had the joy of visiting last month. I pray that it may continue along the path of peace and thus fulfil God’s dream for a human family hospitable and welcoming to all his children. May the power of the risen Lord sustain the peoples of Africa who see their future compromised by internal violence and international terrorism, especially in the Sahel and Nigeria, as well as in Tigray and the Cabo Delgado region. May the efforts to resolve conflicts peacefully continue, in respect for human rights and the sacredness of life, through fraternal and constructive dialogue in a spirit of reconciliation and true solidarity.

There are still too many wars and too much violence in the world! May the Lord, who is our peace, help us to *overcome the mindset of war*. May he grant that prisoners of conflicts, especially in eastern Ukraine and Nagorno-Karabakh, may return safely to their families, and may he inspire world leaders to curb the race for new weaponry. Today, April 4, marks the International Awareness Day against anti-personnel landmines, insidious and horrible devices that kill or maim many innocent people each year and prevent humanity from “walking together on the paths of life without fearing the threat of destruction and death!” How much better our world would be without these instruments of death!

Dear brothers and sisters, once again this year, in various places many Christians have celebrated Easter under severe restrictions and, at times, without being able to attend liturgical celebrations. We pray that those restrictions, as well as all restrictions on freedom of worship and religion worldwide, may be lifted and everyone be allowed to pray and praise God freely.

Amid the many hardships we are enduring, let us never forget that we have been healed by the wounds of Christ (cf. *1 Pet* 2:24). In the light of the Risen Lord, our sufferings are now transfigured. Where there was death, now there is life. Where there was mourning, now there is consolation. In embracing the cross, Jesus bestowed meaning on our sufferings and now we pray that the benefits of that healing will spread throughout the world. A good, happy and serene Easter to all of you!

["Urbi et Orbi" - Easter 2021 | Francis \(vatican.va\)](https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francis/messages/evangelical/2021/04/04-urbi-et-orbi-2021_en.html)

## DIVINE LITURGIES

**Saturday, April 17, @ 6:00PM,**  
Liturgy is being offered for the repose of soul of Hanan Joseph El Rai (Fr. Andrawos' aunt).

**Sunday, April 18, @ 11:00AM,**  
liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Starr / Bittner families requested by Salema and Barbara Dahdah and family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Saturday, April 24, @ 6:00PM,**  
**Sunday, April 25, @ 11:00AM,**  
liturgy is offered for the repose of souls of the deceased members of the Dahdah and Anderson families requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

## SECOND COLLECTION

As per the directives of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn we will have a second collection this weekend **April 17-18** for Catholic Home Missions Appeal. This collection is used for Missions in the USA. Our Eparchy has received large grants from the USCCB from this collection for several years. Thank you for your generosity!

## SANCTUARY CANDLE

This week's Sanctuary Candle is burning in memory of a dear family friend of Fr. Andrawos Saidy Baaklini. May her soul rest in peace.

## ELDERLY COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion at home, please contact the Church Office at 215-389-2000.

## EASTER THANK YOU

I would like to thank all of you for making my first Easter in Philadelphia so special. I wish I had the words to express my appreciation for your well wishes, cards and offering. May God bless you all. May we always be united in the love of Christ.

## ANNUAL BAKE SALE THANK YOU

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked hard for making this year's Bake Sale Take Out another success. Your continuous support and dedication for St. Maron are greatly appreciated. God bless you always.

## THANK YOU

Thank you for everyone who donated to the Church this past week. Our Church's finances rely on the generosity of our community, including Sunday collections and donations. If you are able to donate, please do so via the following link: <https://saintmaron.org/donate> or you can always mail your weekly envelopes/donations to the Church office. Thank you for your continuous support during these challenging times.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Stephen Bressi, Pierre Khoury, Tina Grassia, Michelle Raymond, Elissar Ayoub, Lou Iovino, Ralph Passio, Joanne Simon-Turing, Diane McLaughlin, Bonnie Gorman, Kevin Khoury, Marie McCrea, Suzanne Haney, Luke Farrell Jr., Linda DiBernardo, Joan Speck, David Joseph Cook,

Eddie Tayoun, Panichi, Dennis Strelchuk, Gladys Dalcourt, Denise Furey, Chucky Simon, Mirta Ruiz, Rita Impo, Jade Kellam, Marion Thomas Branca, Francesca Impo, Lucy DiLuce, Laurent Chidiac, Tom Hart, John Hart, Fadi Jaber, Joseph Realdine, Emily Stone, Lisa Alestra, John Nader, Joey Gdowick, Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer Chokeir, Kathy Newman, Rita Arrigale, Maryann Bratton, Renee Sahar, Sister Nahida Al-Sawa, Rose DeJesse, James Cordisio, Stacey Fuentes, Debbie Freedenberg, Noel Andjuhar, and Angel Salerno. We ask Almighty God to bless them with good health so that they may join us in the Church and give glory and thanksgiving to God. Please notify the Church office of any family member who is ill so that we may remember them in our daily prayers and on our altar of intention.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR April 3-4, 2021

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,252.00</b>
<b>Memorials</b>	<b>\$ 915.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>Online Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,610.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 3,877.00</b>
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$ 3,950.00</b>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>- \$ 73.00</b>

## BAKE SALE

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 2,743.49</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 543.13</b>
<b>PROFIT</b>	<b>\$ 2,200.36</b>

## BISHOP'S APPEAL

<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$ 3,420.00</b>
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,500.00</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 80.00</b>

Divine Liturgies will be in the Church.

Seating is limited to **50 people**.

Please "SignUp" before attending.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040548A9A822A3FD0-stmaron>



**Dear Parishioners,**

**ATTENTION**

It was brought to our attention that some of you are not receiving any emails from the church.

**Please always check Spam / Junk**





# How 'The Lion King' Can Remind Us of Our Baptism

Growing up, "The Lion King" was definitely one of my favorite Disney movies. As a kid, and as an adult, something about the animal kingdom, how the lives of different creatures intertwine defaulting into this complex hierarchy was always so fascinating. My interest in the movie skyrocketed with the recent release of the reproduction of the film that uses modern technology to simulate a live-action movie. What was previously an animated classic now presented itself in a way that looked like actual African scenery, drawing the viewer into the screen to feel and be a part of the cinematics. The best scene in the movie, in my opinion, is always the first — the moment "The Circle of Life" starts to play, and all the animals of the kingdom gather before the precipice of Pride Rock to welcome their newest member — a royal member. Recently, some family members decided to watch the reproduction again, and I stuck around to see this first scene. This time, though, something hit me differently. When Simba, the "prince" of the kingdom, is anointed on his head by the kingdom's spiritual leader, Rafiki, and then lifted high and presented to all the kingdom set to the backdrop of Elton John's Disney classic, I couldn't help but feel overwhelmed with emotion realizing that this happens to each and every Christian.

Soon after we are born, we are presented to all the creatures of the kingdom and are welcomed into a royal lineage. The creatures are the members of the Body of Christ, the kingdom is God's, and the royal lineage is our claim as heirs of that kingdom, as sons and daughters of the Most High. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that through Baptism, we become members of the Body of Christ and are incorporated into the Church, but the Baptized also "share in the priesthood of Christ, in his prophetic and royal mission" (CCC 1268). We share in the royal mission. We, like Simba, become royalty. How often do we feel anything but this? Too often. How often do we put ourselves down, or succumb to others putting us down? Too often. How often do we struggle to celebrate our successes because we are too focused on our failures? Too often. How often do we pull our shoulders back with confidence and walk forward on this journey called life with our crowned head held high, knowing that we are royal? Not often enough.

As a young man studying in hopes of one day hearing the words "You are a priest forever" said to me at my ordination, I am no stranger to moments when I feel like anything but royalty. Too often, I focus more on my perceived unworthiness to even have been called to this vocation. Too often, I focus on my perceived inadequacy in comparison to the other seminarians around me. I'm not holy enough. I'm not smart enough. I don't 'get it' enough. But I've come to learn and to remind myself that these are just perceptions in my own mind, because as far as God is concerned, he called me just the way I am for a purpose that no one else can fulfill but me. He has destined me for a priestly, prophetic and royal mission.

God doesn't break his promises. He told us that he would call us by a new name, make us into a crown of beauty and royalty in His hand (Is 62:2-3). This was fulfilled through Christ, whom we became fellow heirs of God with (Rom 8:16). Through our Baptism, we are entrusted with the inheritance. We are entrusted with living our lives as true heirs of the Kingdom. God willing, as a priest one day, I look forward to being able to personally play a role in adding more heirs to the Kingdom, as I baptize in the name of the Most Holy Trinity.

Living this kingship and living as royalty is not meant to be from a place of power or authority, but a role that is founded on love. Pope Francis, in one of his past General Audiences, pointed out that our call to proclaim Christ's kingship and royalty, by sharing in it, is to be done "by our witness of faith and love, and our commitment to imitate him in loving service to our brothers and sisters." Faith. Service. LOVE. There is no greater commandment than that of love. But, this presupposes that we even know how to love. When we can learn to love ourselves as the royalty that we are, then we begin to love our neighbor as ourselves, as fellow-heirs, and this leads us to know how to truly love God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Mt 22:37-39). Some days will be easy, and others will be tough. Even Simba had his rough days, especially when he disobeyed his father and journeyed out into the dark, forbidden elephant graveyard. It is the next scene that also always gives me good feelings. Mufasa takes Simba out into the fields, and amidst his forgiveness Mufasa directs his son's attention into the night sky and tells him that all the kings of the past are looking down on him and protecting him. We too will have days where we will find ourselves moving towards the forbidden, darkened lands. It is during these days that it is most important for us to look ourselves in the mirror and remind ourselves to whom we belong: the King that will protect us from the overwhelming rivers and burning fires along this journey of life (Is 43:2). So, on those tough days, remember to look in the mirror, look in the eyes of that person you see staring back at you and say to him or her: "Hey, I think you dropped something." Pick up their crown, adjust it on their head, and push them back into the 'Circle of Life.'



**Christian Hbaiter**

Christian Hbaiter is a Maronite Seminarian studying for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn. Leaving his home state of Massachusetts, Christian joined the Maronite Seminary in Washington, DC and is in his second year of Theological Studies at The Catholic University of America.

[How 'The Lion King' Can Remind Us of Our Baptism | Busted Halo](#)

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**Application Deadline: May 28, 2021**

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO  
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## FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS IN LEBANON



I write to you on behalf of the Superior General of the Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Cross in Lebanon, Mother Marie Makhoulf. Their founder, Blessed Jacques Haddad, helped them establish 19 different institutions to serve the poor in Lebanon. Now with 183 nuns and hundreds of doctors, nurses and helpers, they represent the biggest charitable outreach in all of Lebanon, serving Christians and Muslims alike.

The Sisters are in a dire situation and in great need of financial and every other support possible. They go into debt daily in order to serve the most vulnerable. We would welcome any financial, or service, solidarity you can offer to them, even if a symbolic one.

The following link is a very informative video of Fr. Michel Abboud, President of Caritas Lebanon, talking about the Sisters' incredible work serving Christ's poor. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yc\\_mo4F3ouI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yc_mo4F3ouI)

Donations can be made by sending a check payable to the Eparchy of Saint Maron, 109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (please note "Franciscan Sisters" in the memo section), or online at [www.stmaron.org/donate-for-lebanon](http://www.stmaron.org/donate-for-lebanon).

Thank you always for your support for the Eparchy and beyond! May you have a very blessed Triduum.

+Gregory



## COME AWAY & PRAY



The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light are opening their convent in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, for young adult women (ages 18-35) to come and visit during the week of **May 1-8, 2021**. This will be an opportunity to make a mini retreat, participate with the sisters in their day-to-day life and be rejuvenated in the Lord.

The sisters encourage any woman open to serving the Lord in a special way interested to contact Sister Marla Marie for more information.



**Please RSVP by April 17, 2021**

**by Phone: 508-996-1753**

**or**

**by Email: [sister@maroniteservants.org](mailto:sister@maroniteservants.org)**

**Website: [maroniteservants.org](http://maroniteservants.org)**

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# Saint Maron

## Maronite Catholic Church



April 17-18, 2020

### First Reading

#### 2 Timothy 2:8-13

**A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Corinthians. Your blessing father...**

Brothers and Sisters:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself.

**Praise be to God always.**

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى طيموتاوس

يا إخوتي، وأنت يا ابني، تذكّر يسوع المسيح الذي قام من بين الأموات، وهو من نسل داود، بحسب إنجيلي، الذي فيه أحتمل المشقات حتى القيود كمجرم، لكن كلمة الله لا تُقيد. لذلك أضرب على كل شيء من أجل المختارين، ليخلصوا هم أيضًا على الخلاص في المسيح يسوع مع المجد الأبدي. صديقة هي الكلمة: إن متنا معه نحيا معه، وإن صبرنا نملك معه، وإن أنكرناه يُنكرنا، وإن كنا غير أمتاء فهو يَبقى أمينًا، لأنه لا يقدر أن يُنكر نفسه!

والتسبيح لله دائماً.



## **Gospel Reading**

**Saint Luke 24:13-35**

### **The Apostle Writes:**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**This is the truth. Peace be with you.**

## مِنْ إِنْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ لوقا

فِي الْيَوْمِ عَيْنِهِ، كَانَ اثْنَانِ مِنَ التَّلَامِيذِ ذَاهِبَيْنِ إِلَى قَرْيَةٍ تُدْعَى عِمَّاوُسَ، تَبْعُدُ نَحْوَ سَبْعَةِ أَمْيَالٍ عَنْ أُورُشَلِيمَ. وَكَانَا يَتَحَادَثَانِ بِكُلِّ تِلْكَ الْأُمُورِ الَّتِي حَدَثَتْ. وَفِيمَا هُمَا يَتَحَادَثَانِ وَيَتَسَاءَلَانِ، إِذَا يَسُوعُ نَفْسُهُ قَدْ أَقْتَرَبَ مِنْهُمَا، وَرَاحَ يَسِيرُ مَعَهُمَا. وَلَكِنَّ أَعْيُنَهُمَا أُمْسِكَتْ عَنْ مَعْرِفَتِهِ. أَمَّا هُوَ فَقَالَ لَهُمَا: «مَا هَذَا الْكَلَامُ الَّذِي تَتَحَادَثَانِ بِهِ، وَأَنْتُمَا تَسِيرَانِ؟». فَوَقَّفاً عَابِسَيْنِ. وَأَجَابَ أَحَدُهُمَا، وَأَسْمُهُ كَلِيُوبَاسُ، فَقَالَ لَهُ: «هَلْ أَنْتَ وَحْدَكَ غَرِيبٌ عَنْ أُورُشَلِيمَ، فَلَا تَعْلَمُ مَا حَدَثَ فِيهَا هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامَ؟». فَقَالَ لَهُمَا: «وَمَا هِيَ؟». فَقَالَا لَهُ: «مَا يَتَعَلَّقُ بِيَسُوعَ النَّاصِرِيِّ، الَّذِي كَانَ رَجُلًا نَبِيًّا قَوِيًّا بِالْقَوْلِ وَالْفِعْلِ، قُدَّامَ اللَّهِ وَالشَّعْبِ كُلِّهِ. وَكَيْفَ أَسْلَمَهُ أَخْبَارُنَا وَرُؤُسَاؤُنَا لِيُحْكَمَ عَلَيْهِ بِالْمَوْتِ، وَكَيْفَ صَلَبُوهُ! وَكُنَّا نَحْنُ نَرْجُو أَنْ يَكُونَ هُوَ الَّذِي سَيُعْطِي إِسْرَائِيلَ. وَلَكِنْ مَعَ هَذَا كُلِّهِ، فَهَذَا هُوَ الْيَوْمُ الثَّالِثُ بَعْدَ تِلْكَ الْأَحْدَاثِ. لَكِنَّ بَعْضَ النِّسَاءِ مِنْ جَمَاعَتِنَا أَذْهَشْنَنَا، لِأَنَّهُنَّ ذَهَبْنَ إِلَى الْقَبْرِ عِنْدَ الْفَجْرِ، وَلَمْ يَجِدْنَ جَسَدَ يَسُوعَ، فَارْجَعْنَ وَقُلْنَ إِنَّهُنَّ شَاهِدْنَ مَلَائِكَةً تَرَاءَوْا لَهُنَّ وَقَالُوا إِنَّهُ حَيٌّ! وَمَضَى قَوْمٌ مِنَ الَّذِينَ مَعَنَا إِلَى الْقَبْرِ، فَوَجَدُوهُ هكَذَا كَمَا قَالَتِ النِّسَاءُ، وَأَمَّا يَسُوعُ فَلَمْ يَرَوْهُ». فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعُ: «يَا عَدِيمِي الْفَهْمِ، وَبَطِيئِي الْقَلْبِ فِي الْإِيمَانِ بِكُلِّ مَا تَكَلَّمَ بِهِ الْأَنْبِيَاءُ! أَمَّا كَانَ يَجِبُ عَلَى الْمَسِيحِ أَنْ يُعَانِيَ تِلْكَ الْأَلَامَ، ثُمَّ يَدْخُلَ فِي مَجْدِهِ؟». وَفَسَّرَ لَهُمَا مَا يَتَعَلَّقُ بِهِ فِي كُلِّ الْكُتُبِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ، مُبْتَدِئًا بِمُوسَى وَجَمِيعِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ. وَأَقْتَرَبَا مِنَ الْقَرْيَةِ الَّتِي كَانَا ذَاهِبَيْنِ إِلَيْهَا، فَتَظَاهَرَ يَسُوعُ بِأَنَّهُ ذَاهِبٌ إِلَى مَكَانٍ أَبْعَدَ. فَتَمَسَّكَ بِهِ قَائِلَيْنِ: «أُمْكُتْ مَعَنَا، فَقَدْ حَانَ الْمَسَاءُ، وَمَالَ النَّهَارُ». فَدَخَلَ لِيَمْكُتَ مَعَهُمَا. وَفِيمَا كَانَ مُتَّكِئًا مَعَهُمَا، أَخَذَ الْخُبْزَ، وَبَارَكَ، وَكَسَرَ، وَنَاولَهُمَا. فَأَنْفَتَحَتْ أَعْيُنُهُمَا، وَعَرَفَاهُ، فَإِذَا هُوَ قَدْ تَوَارَى عَنْهُمَا. فَقَالَ أَحَدُهُمَا لِلْآخَرِ: «أَمَّا كَانَ قَلْبُنَا مُضْطَرِمًّا فِينَا، حِينَ كَانَ يُكَلِّمُنَا فِي الطَّرِيقِ، وَيُشْرَحُ لَنَا الْكُتُبَ؟». وَقَامَا فِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ عَيْنَهَا، وَرَجَعَا إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ، فَوَجَدَا الْأَحَدَ عَشَرَ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُمْ مُجْتَمِعِينَ، وَهُمْ يَقُولُونَ: «حَقًّا إِنَّ الرَّبَّ قَامَ، وَتَرَاءَى لِسَمْعَانَ!». أَمَّا هُمَا فَكَانَا يُخْبِرَانِ بِمَا حَدَثَ فِي الطَّرِيقِ، وَكَيْفَ عَرَفَا يَسُوعَ عِنْدَ كَسْرِ الْخُبْزِ.

حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانُ لَجَمِيعِكُمْ.