

Easter is a celebration of our human senses. We SEE the light of the new Christ candle dispelling the darkness of death. We see the starkness of our Lent transformed into a place of life with symbols of resurrection. We HEAR the wonderful scriptural account of Mary Magdalene's discovery of the empty tomb and her rush to tell the astonishing news to Peter and John. As they enter the tomb and see for themselves the impossible, faith is born.

We rejoice in hearing the Alleluias, the Gloria, and the joyous sounds of Easter songs. We SMELL the incense, and the fragrance of the flowers. After we renew our baptismal promises, we FEEL the sprinkled holy water on our faces blessing us and reminding us of our participation in Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Finally we TASTE the bread and wine, knowing the reality they signify: the Body and Blood of Christ, Christ who

conquered sin and death and is with us always in the resurrection.

These symbols are rich images that help us join with the universal church in a cry of “Alleluia! We are a people of hope.” We are afforded this hope because we know that Christ has conquered sin and death once and for all.

Through our baptism we share in this resurrection. We are a resurrection people here and now, while we await with confidence our eternal communion with God the Father, Son and Spirit. This morning I want you all to take in the sights and sounds, the tastes and the smells of this Easter liturgy. Drink in slowly the inexpressible: Christ is risen. He is alive. He is our hope.

Yet we don't have to look far beyond the doors of this Church to wonder whether our hope is misplaced. If Christ is truly risen then why is there acts of terrorism, school

shootings, cancer and other diseases, poverty and natural disasters?

Why do good people continue to suffer? What good is all this rich symbolism today? Well, this is a question that people of faith have been wrestling with since the beginning of time. The response on this Easter morning is clear.

As a resurrection people, we should not leave these rich images of our celebration behind as we leave this church.

Heed the words of the angel in our gospel tonight who stood at the opening of the empty tomb and said, “Do not be afraid. I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.

He is not here, for he has been raised.... Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell others the good news.”

Telling others the good news brings us back to all the rich images we encountered at this liturgy. Not only should we take them in but we should also take them out these doors into the world. We are called to become these images for a world that is in need of resurrection. Let us carry the light of our baptism into the darkness around us. Let the word of God be proclaimed in our loving actions. Certainly there is no doubt that the bread and wine that we taste at this altar are truly the Body and Blood of Christ, broken and shared for all. It is also no accident that we bless ourselves with holy water when we enter and leave church. This water reminds us that we are a resurrection people, people who bring hope to the world. Even if we go out and give away only a portion of what we experience here this morning, others will come to know that Christ is alive. That is the spark that begins to illuminate the darkness of our world.