

Easter – March 31/April 1, 2018 – Reflection

"In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

The Book of Genesis

Tonight/today as we stand in the light of the Christ Candle, a new world, a new beginning is made.

" ... the soldiers came and broke the legs of the men crucified with Jesus, first of the one, then of the other. When they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. One of the soldiers thrust a lance into His side, and immediately blood and water flowed out."

The Gospel of John

At the dawn of time, God spoke over the swirling waters of an empty, dark earth and said, "Let there be light." In the rumbling earthquake and the dark eclipse of Calvary, God again spoke: spoke in the love and ultimate sacrifice of His Son, the Word Made Flesh; spoke in the midst of death and seeming defeat; spoke a timeless eternal word, "Let there be LIFE!"

God's blood dropped to the clay of the earth to remake human clay into the Body of Christ; water spilled to the earth to baptize sinful humanity into the Church of Christ; from blood and water, from the

ashes a new heavens and a new earth emerged and the Body of Christ was raised and the Church of believers was born.

I don't remember my baptism ... I doubt very many of us do. I was a tiny month-old newborn ruling the roost with my parents in the suburbs of Philadelphia. I don't think I've ever even seen pictures from that day in St. Denis Church, but that day, little and insignificant though I may have been, I died and rose with Christ, and here I am!!

Tonight/Today, though, in a sense, I get a chance to remember. Along with all God's people all over the world, along with the martyrs and saints in heaven, along with all the baptized in all the ages past and all that are still to come, I remember that I am but dust but watered by God's love, I am beloved dust! I remember that in my sin I am lifeless and dead but with the blood of Christ coursing through my soul, I am fed and reborn! I remember that before I was nothing, a nobody, but anointed by His wounded hand, I become holy priest, fearless prophet, exalted royalty! And most of all, I remember that where before I was lost in darkness and defeat, unsure of where to turn, where to go, now in the light of my Risen Lord that burned through the rock and smashed it to pieces, in that light I remember that I can see: the Son of God lights my way and guides my step and I am not afraid anymore!

Tonight/Today, in my Jesus, in my baptism, tonight/today I remember.