Resurrection of Our Lord -April 20, 2025
Text: Job 19:23-27
Theme: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives!"

No one signs up for the life of Job. If you have read his story in the Bible, you know that God allowed the devil to test his faith by taking away most of the blessings God had given him to see if Job would turn away from God. The devil took his land, his money, his health and even his wife and children, but one thing the devil could not take was Job's faith. The gift of faith is protected by God and He will never allow anyone or anything to rob us of our faith. That's just as true for us as it was for Job. No one can take our faith. Only we can give our faith away.

Even in his worst moment Job loudly declared that he knew that his Redeemer lived, and that the day would come when he would see Him face to face in his flesh. Job believed in the resurrection of the body because God had promised that His children would be raised. He believed it so strongly that he wanted to record his words with an iron pen and lead. That is, he wanted to chisel his belief into rock. And Job had not even seen what we have seen.

Today, we gather to celebrate the very thing that Job proclaimed by faith: the resurrection from the dead of Jesus

Christ. Today is the Resurrection of Our Lord. Where Job believed by faith, we have eyewitnesses to proclaim that it is indeed a fact. If someone denies Jesus' resurrection the burden of proof is on them because we have well over 500 eyewitnesses who attest to its truth. But the reality is, all the eyewitnesses in the world really wouldn't help. Like Job believed by faith that Jesus would come, so we believe by faith that Jesus came.

Only faith can grasp Jesus and a person without faith cannot grasp Him regardless of the proof offered. It is not an intellectual exercise which is why you cannot argue belief in Christ. Only the Holy Spirit can create faith and when He does, through the Word of God and through Holy Baptism, it is a powerful thing. A person of faith understands exactly what Job is saying. A person without faith sees a raving lunatic trying to justify his horrendous losses.

Everything in our world hinges on the resurrection! The fact that Jesus lives and will return for us on the day we rise from the dead by the power of the Father, changes every focus of our lives. Not only that, but as we feed that faith with Word and Sacrament, it grows more and more powerful until worldly

issues begin to fall away from us. If a Christian is more interested in making money than worshipping God, or more committed to a sports team than to the Church, that is an indication of weak faith. The solution is not to berate him for poor priorities but to encourage him with the Word of God. Only the Word and the Sacrament can grow faith. None of our words will do anything beyond making people angry and offended. Stronger faith equals different priorities and the former has to occur before the latter.

You and I get to be the purveyors of this amazing news! When Jesus ascended into Heaven, having risen from the dead, He told us to be like Job! Go make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them everything He taught us. The fundamental thing we have to proclaim is not who's sinning more or less than someone else. It's not that we have a rocking youth group and a fantastic Kantor. The fundamental thing we proclaim is that we know that our redeemer lives. Like Job, we find ways to chisel it into every surface of our lives so that if someone knows nothing else about us, they know that we believe in Jesus.

I wonder who the angel was who got to be the first being to proclaim the resurrection.

"Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here." What an amazing honor to get to be the first created being to proclaim that truth. And what an amazing honor to be the women who were the first human witnesses of the resurrection and the first to tell others what they had seen. Being 2,000 years removed from the moment, we can sometimes forget the great honor God gave all of His people in being sent, being commissioned to tell what Job told.

"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth."