

Third Sunday of Easter

Gospel text (Lk 24,35-48): (...) Jesus himself stood in their midst. And he said to them, «Peace to you». In their panic and fright they thought they were seeing a ghost, but he said to them, «Why are you upset and why do such ideas cross your mind? Look at my hands and feet and see that it is I myself (...)».

Then Jesus said to them, «Remember the words I spoke to you when I was still with you: ‘Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled’». Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And He went on, «(...) You shall be witnesses to this».

Christ's resurrection, basis of the Christian message

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, the Apostles are witnesses of a reality that completely transformed them: Jesus —as stated in the Sacred Scriptures— has been raised. The Christian faith stands or falls with the truth of the testimony that Christ is risen from the dead. "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith", says St. Paul (1Cor 15:14).

If this were taken away, it would still be possible to piece together from the Christian tradition a series of interesting ideas about God and men, about man's being and his obligations, a kind of religious world view: but the Christian faith itself would be dead. On the other hand, whether Jesus merely was or whether he also is, this depends on the Resurrection. In answering yes or no to this question, we are taking a stand not simply on one event among others, but on the figure of Jesus as such.

—In Your resurrection, O Jesus, we have reached a new possibility of becoming men

and a new future for mankind.