

# HOMILIES FROM THE HERMITAGE

## CORONA 17

### THE EASTER DAY

#### MY LORD AND MY GOD

The whole of this Easter week is considered as one day: the octave of the victory of Christ. In the old days this week started and ended on the Saturday mornings when the priests doffed the celebration vestments and used plain white albs: hence the old term Low Sunday.. Now the Sunday after Easter is celebrated as the Octave.

Easter celebrates its climax at Pentecost. 7 weeks of 7 days + 1=50 days a complete number.

The Octave Sunday rounds off the first week wherein we have heard Scripture events as from the day when Jesus rose from the dead. The scripture reveals that the triumph of Jesus was not easily believed by the apostles and others. The first apostles at the tomb were scared. Mary Magdalene thought that someone had taken away Jesus' body. Gradually they realize that Jesus really is alive and victorious. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus did not at first realize that it was Jesus who was with them. As the day wore on different people saw Jesus and finally He came to them in the Upper Room and told them not to be afraid.

Thomas was not there on the first day and refused to believe the others, but a week later Jesus came again and this time Thomas was there. Jesus challenged him directly and Thomas replied, 'My Lord and My God'. This is the ONLY time in the Gospels when anyone acknowledges Jesus as 'Lord and God' It is striking that this expression of faith came from one who at first completely doubted. Jesus replied, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

Some scholars think that this may have been the earlier form of the ending of John's Gospel. In the events in John's Gospel we most usually have an event, a teaching and finally an act of faith. The whole Gospel pattern is: The event was: Word was made flesh': the teaching— Jesus' ministry up to His death and resurrection: the act of faith 'My Lord and my God'.

The central doctrine in St. John's Gospel is to reveal and express the belief that Jesus is Lord and God. John concludes the passage by saying that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name.

*This is we are encouraged to follow and celebrate Jesus and Our Lord and God, Victor over sin and death and the Redeemer Who will take us to His Kingdom.*

*Therefore Easter does not end on Easter Sunday still less on Bank Holiday Monday. The Octave Day brings to the profession of Thomas' faith. The season continues until Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church.*

**Therefore brethren in Easter there should be no penance, no kneeling and no fasting.**

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