

Third Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2006

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 1Jn 2:1-5a Lk 24:35-48

Preacher: *Sister Catherine Marie Bazar, OP*

A great violinist once said that before every concert, he trembles with fear over the possibility of failing his audience. But when the curtain rises and the people look to him with expectation and awe, he unites with their energy, forgets himself, and enters the magic world of music. The secret, he discovered, was threefold: he possessed nothing of himself; he was to live with the knowledge that a God-given talent lay in a very fragile vessel; its value is recognized and bears fruit only when freed and unselfishly given to others.

Although we are basking in the Eastertide of Christ's redemptive love for us, our Readings today seem to take us clear back to a trembling Lenten truth: that we are, like the violinist, extremely fragile vessels who can so easily deny the "Source" of any giftedness we may have: "***The author of life you put to death. . .***" When this occurs, we also put to death any possibilities within ourselves by killing what could have been.

But we are also told that God knows how we all too readily act "***out of ignorance,***" and so we are reminded to repent over and over again --every day of our lives --that this denial be wiped away and the reality of God's love be perfected in us.

And what is this reality? It is the reality that the Easter season echoes over and over again:

Christ has died – for me!
Christ is risen – in me!
Christ will come again – through me!

So, rather than bemoan what appears to be the negativity of Peter's message to his audience that they denied God's Son, or John's message to avoid sin at any cost (lest we become "liars!") or the slow acceptance of the "***startled and terrified***" apostles that Jesus was risen and present to them, let us do as we are instructed. Let us embrace our fragile stuff, free the sleeping, grace-laden, divine potential that pulsates throughout our beings, and allow the curtain to rise on our lavishly resurrected lives. Then we too can witness to "***preaching in his name to all the nations***" through every unique and special gift we bring to life from within.

Let us bless the Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!