



## SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



### **The Easter Vigil March 26, 2005**

The deacon has just proclaimed the Gospel -- the Good News -- of the Lord. Before and after the proclamation we song and our acclamation were, \_ Alleluia! Praise to you, O Lord!\_ What the deacon has proclaimed is the greatest good news we could ever be given, the greatest ground for \_ Alleluia!\_ that there could be: Jesus Christ our Lord, who died for our sins, has been raised from the dead, raised that we too might live in newness of life, all this to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead. He has been raised not only in his soul, but also in his body: the disciples saw him and heard him, they touched him, they ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. Yet, though he has been raised in the wholeness of his being, he has not been raised to a mere resumption of earthly life, but to the life of eternal glory: his appearances to his disciples were those of one no longer bound by the conditions of earthly life; on the fortieth day they saw him ascend into heaven, there to be seated at the right hand of the Father, for all things to be subjected to him.

Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, that we too might live in newness of life. He has died and risen that we might be united with him in his death and resurrection. We are thus united with him by the life of faith and of the sacraments. In Baptism we die with him to sin and rise up with him to the life of grace and justification; in Confirmation, we are given the fullness of his Holy Spirit; in the Eucharist, our union with him in his sacrifice on the Cross and his resurrection is made ever stronger, and we are given the pledge of eternal life. At our physical death, his power working through his sacraments continues to operate in us: now our souls, after final purification, are raised to the eternal vision of him, and then our bodies, at the end of time, are raised into the life of glory as well, and we enter in the wholeness of our being into the joy of our Lord.

All this, for the glory of God the Father. \_ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places . . . to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.\_

Dear friends, on this holiest of nights, let us then, in fullness of faith, renew our Baptismal vows, be sprinkled by the water from the Baptismal font; let us seal with the gift of the Holy Spirit the one to be received into full communion with the Church, those who are to complete their initiation; let us then together with them approach the table of the Lord, and there receive his Most Holy Body and Blood -- and thus be conformed, more deeply than ever before, to the saving Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord. So let us enter into the joy of the glorious fifty days of Easter, with "Alleluia" our song, and our greeting to one another: Christos aneste; alethinos aneste! Christus surrexit; vere surrexit! Christ is risen; he is truly risen!