

Saturday, April 15, 2017 - Day 104 – I Samuel 22-24, Psalm 87, Acts 1

On this Holy Saturday, the day Jesus' body rested in the tomb, we begin our journey with the early Church in the Acts of the Apostles. On this day in the Eastern Orthodox Church, the entire Acts of the Apostles is read by candlelight. They await this night the news of the Resurrection during the Easter Vigil. They read these words as a way to remind them of the Church which is about to spring forth from the tomb with the Resurrection of Jesus. Something new is about to happen and there is anticipation in the air.

The early Church possessed a simple passion and joy which could not be matched. Even in the midst of the fear and uncertainty after the Ascension, the apostles understood their mission. In reading Acts, let us imagine how the early followers of Jesus felt. What were their concerns? What grounded them in their Faith?

As Christians today, there is much to be learned from the early Church. They were rooted in a deep relationship to Jesus and each other. They understood if their mission would succeed they needed a strong commitment which would not be shaken. They understood what was essential and what could be left behind. They took risks to spread the Gospel not only within the community, but their lives. Their lives were transformed and fear was overcome.

As we enter this Easter Season, ask yourself how you can capture the zeal of the early Church. How can you bring this fervor to your local church and our diocese. How can we model our faith, church, and diocese on the foundation of the apostles?

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

By The Very Rev. Michael Ruk