**He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you**

**EASTER VIGIL APRIL 3 (Mk 16, 1-7)**

In the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus' public life begins with the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy and the mission of the disciples also begins with the same prophecy: “*But the haze will be dissipated, for there will be no more darkness where there is now anguish. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will make glorious the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness saw a great light; on those who dwelt in the land of darkness a light shone. You have multiplied the joy, you have increased the joy. They rejoice before you as they rejoice when they reap and as they rejoice when they divide their prey. Because you broke the yoke that oppressed him, the bar on his shoulders, and the staff of his tormentor, as in the day of Midian. Because every soldier's shoe that rumbled along and every cloak soaked in blood will be burned, fed to the fire. Because a child was born for us, a child was given to us. On his shoulders is power and his name will be: Admirable Counselor, Mighty God, Father forever, Prince of Peace. Great will be his power and peace will have no end on David's throne and his kingdom, which he comes to consolidate and strengthen with law and justice, now and forever. This will be done by the zeal of the Lord of hosts " (Is 8,22-9,6).*Only the people who walked in darkness change. For Jesus the people are the children of Israel. For the disciples the people are the whole world. The Apostles must always remember that they are sent as the light of the world and they must never forget that the world is in darkness. When they forget about this condition, then they will make a world of themselves and make alliances with the darkness and also with the prince of evil who is the father of all truthful and moral darkness. Then the Word of the Lord will be fulfilled: *“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot". “The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be. "(Mt 5.13; 6.22-23).*

*When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.'"*

It is noteworthy what happens on the morning of the resurrection. The event that delighted heaven and earth is narrated with great simplicity. It is announced in a few words. The fact is said in its essence: *“Do not be afraid! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified one. He is risen, he is not here. Here is the place where they had placed it”.* The reality of events is reported without any emphasis. The fact is announced in its bare truth. Along with the announcement there is a message to bring to the disciples: *“He goes before you to Galilee. There you will see him, as he told you”*. As Jesus had told the disciples before his capture and his passion and death, so it happens. No word of Jesus has ever been vain. There is no space in the Gospels except for what is strictly essential. The Holy Spirit wants to teach us that nothing should disturb the truth of Christ Jesus. Nothing should divert attention from history in its essentiality. Today the disciples must know that Jesus has risen. They need to know from particular witnesses: women. They are the Angels for the Apostles. None of them got up early in the morning to go to the tomb. The women have gone, and they are given the mission. A truth must be learned. The Holy Spirit reveals the mystery to those who are eager to know it. Women are attentive to Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit rewards them for their love.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us attentive to the mystery of Christ Jesus.