**Repentance and forgiveness of sins**

**THURSDAY APRIL 8 (Lk 24, 35-48)**

Our God is great in mercy and forgiveness. The Book of Wisdom thus narrates and reveals the compassion of the Lord: *“For with you great strength abides always; who can resist the might of your arm? Indeed, before you the whole universe is as a grain from a balance, or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook the sins of men that they may repent. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned. And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? But you spare all things, because they are yours, O LORD and lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things! Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them, and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O LORD! "(Wis 11, 21-12, 2).*From which city should the Apostles begin their mission with the preaching of conversion and the forgiveness of sins? Precisely from Jerusalem, the city in which Jesus the Lord was crucified, after being accused of blasphemy. With Jesus' death only part of the ancient prophecies had been fulfilled. With the resurrection all the promises of God became history, life, and reality in Jesus. He is the true Messiah. Now whoever wants to believe can do it. All Scripture testifies that Jesus of Nazareth is the true Messiah, the true Christ. After the glorious resurrection, those who do not believe are responsible for their unbelief. He will no longer be able to appeal to Scripture. It is all, in each of his words, on the side of the Risen One.

*Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have. " And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.*

The conversion that the Apostles will have to announce or preach is the necessary passage from Moses to Christ Jesus and from the Law to the Gospel. It is at the same time moral, Christological, ecclesial. It is moral because everyone will have to walk according to the Word that Jesus revealed, the Word which is the only way to reach the eternal kingdom. It is Christological because faith in Christ Jesus is the condition for being freed from all sin. The forgiveness of sins is the fruit and gift of Christ. It is ecclesial because only by becoming the true body of Christ and by joining the community we do receive all those means of grace and all truth to remain and walk the way of life. Today many children of the Church are abdicating the preaching commanded by the Lord Jesus. Salvation is preached without conversion either to the Gospel, or to Christ Jesus or to the Church. It is in full disobedience to the command of Lord Jesus. If these three conversions - to the Gospel, to Christ Jesus, to the Church - are the only way of true salvation, not preaching them means abandoning man to perdition. It is to leave him in his sin and in his darkness. If we then add that non-mission is the result of a preaching that announces that everything is ultimately enveloped in God's mercy, then we must confess that the ancient religion and the ancient faith is dead and buried.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let us remain anchored to the ancient faith.