

Let us pray,

Lord, remind us to be resurrection people. Guide our lives, our hearts, our minds and our souls by this reality.

Amen.

Are you a resurrection person?

Are we a resurrection people?

What does it mean to be a resurrection person or people?

In our Gospel today, we have some church leaders unconvinced of the possibility of the resurrection of the dead.

They are talking bad about Jesus in the corners of the streets.

Mocking him, saying how dumb it is for him to believe in the resurrection of the dead.

So to continue the mockery, they try to catch Jesus in a battle of wits on a hypothetical and hyperbolic example about marriage and the resurrection of the dead.

They want to mess Jesus up and get him to screw up and lose some of his honor and respect from the people.

But instead, Jesus turns it around like he typically does and says that they are not thinking in the correct way.

They think that life in the resurrection will be some replication of what happened on earth.

A continuation of the choices that we made.

But Jesus reminds us that to be a resurrection people is to be open to new life.

To a life that is different than the life that we have lived.

To be a resurrection people is to learn to think beyond the barriers and the limitations of this world.

To see beyond what is seen.

We cannot live as a resurrection people and only think and act in ways that the world wishes for us to think and act.

I was at a 1700 anniversary of the council of Nicaea celebration and dialogue at the Roman Catholic Harrisburg Dioceses on Wednesday.

And one of the presenters was a former scientist turned Episcopal priest.

And she reminded us that if we are going to try and limit God to the limits of God's creation, than God is nothing but another creature.

If we think we can prove the existence of a God through that God's own creation, than we are surely mistaken on what it means to be created versus being a creator.

The creation will never understand the fullness of the creator. Since the beginning of Judaism and Christianity, we have had this understanding that we only have a glimpse of God. St. Bernard of Clairvoix called it the Kiss of the Kiss.

That God is so unknowable in God's fullness that we are one step removed from actually touching God.

Jesus is that one step removed.

Jesus is the person of God who took on human form to be the kiss of the kiss, so that we can understand that God exists, that

God cares about us, that God loves us, and that God is here with us.

But Jesus is not here to make us understand God in God's fullness.

Jesus is the fullness of God, but that does not mean that we are capable of understanding the fullness of God.

If that makes sense.

Jesus came to us in a form that is understandable to our brains, but that doesn't mean that we understand fully who Jesus truly was and is.

So going back to the religious leaders and their mockery of the resurrection of the dead.

They do not understand how it is possible, because they believe that it is impossible.

They are putting limits on God.

And Jesus is trying to remind them that just because we don't think something to be possible, does not make it impossible for God.

Our inability to understand, does not stop God from existing or doing what God will do.

When we put God's existence and God's ability to work in the world in the barriers of our own understanding.

God will never make sense.

And I don't think that we want God to make sense.

If the marker of if something exists or not, or happens or not, is fully dependent on our ability to comprehend it or dream it, that puts us in the seat of God and the seat of arrogance.

If we think we can know more than God, we are committing the number one sin.

You shall have no other God's before me, that it includes our own egos.

Religion is not science.

It is not something that we will fully understand.

It is something beyond reason, but it is not unreasonable.

It is good and it is ok to believe and to see beyond what is in front of us.

It is good and ok to know that we will never know the fullness of what or who God is.

But we do have a glimpse, a kiss of a kiss.

We have a resurrected God, who died on the cross and rose from the dead.

It is on this one singular reality that our faith in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead and the life eternal, is held on.

We may not fully understand it, we may not fully understand why God had to die and be resurrected.

But what we do understand through the words and actions of Jesus, is that we are brought into the fold of God.

And if God can raise the dead, God can do anything.

So what?

What does this mean for us today?

It means that even though we may be going through hardship right now in all of its forms.

Even though we are worried, hurting, sad, disappointed, or all of the negative emotions that us humans experience.

We can be assured that this world is not the end, that there is something better on the other side of death, that these are not just words or hopes but the truth, the reality of life.

Because Jesus was raised from the dead, our suffering and our pain is not in vain.

Because Jesus was raised from the dead, peace will be had, either in this life or the next.

But we don't have to wait until we die to experience the kiss of the kiss.

Jesus was flesh and blood and raised up as flesh and blood.

We can create a better world.

We can create a world that all people experience the love of God.

Heaven on earth is possible, at least a strong taste of heaven that is.

But we have to stop being like the sadducees.

We have to stop trying to tear down, or dwell in the absurdity of it all.

What we are called to do in this life, is dwell in the resurrection.

Dwell in the possibilities a resurrected christ offers us.

Dwell in the knowledge to know that God loves all of us so much that he was willing to be crucified for us.

Dwell in the knowledge that God is not some far off God who doesn't care, but one who walks among us, suffering with us, and guiding us to be more heaven focused.

Dwell in community, work out our differences, work through disagreements, hurt feelings, misunderstandings.

Life is way too short to hold a grudge and put others down.

Forgive, because if we never forgive we will eventually find ourselves on an island of isolation built on resentment.

Lift each other up, because only when we are all lifted, can we live the way Christ calls us to live.

Lets be a resurrection people.

People changed by the radical love of Christ, who forgives even when undeserved, who loves unconditionally, and who walks through the valley of the shadow of death, with us, fearing no evil.

Amen.