

Homily
April 20, 2025
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
20:40 – 27:55

Happy Easter! (Response: Happy Easter!)

It's wonderful that we gather here on this wonderful day when we encounter the very reason for our hope: **The Lord Jesus, Risen**. That hope which is meant to move us forward in our journey in life and in faith.

Have you ever been dumbfounded? (I know you have.) Have you ever been dumbfounded? Dumbfounded – I looked it up. It means to be speechless because something extraordinary or awe-inspiring has happened. And you just don't have the words. You just don't.

Now there are some among us that we always hope would be speechless.

But to be dumbfounded...We witness this in the Gospel. They don't say much, the ladies that go. Peter doesn't say anything. But what they tell, they don't understand. In part because they are dumbfounded, speechless. They can't talk about it because they don't know what it is. They just know that his body is missing and that someone left the burial cloths there.

They can't speak.

But in that First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, a number of days later, like **fifty**, Peter speaks. He has come to a fuller understanding, through the Lord Jesus appearing again and again in various ways to the Apostles. And now he fully understands.

But if you read further in the Acts of the Apostles, you're going to find that sometimes Peter kind of veers to the left, or to the right. Because he hasn't incorporated the understanding fully into how he lives.

We have fifty days now, my brothers and sisters. **This is day one**.

I don't expect you to go forth from here dumbfounded because – well, the liturgy went well and no one was injured. But I think what this day offers us for the next fifty, until we celebrate Pentecost, is to look at our silence. To look at our silence. We're either dumbfounded or we're overwhelmed. And we don't understand or speak what we have here today. (gesturing to the assembly)

So I think we would all be well-served if we would ask ourselves, “Am I dumbfounded by what we celebrate today? Am I speechless? Beyond the songs that we sing. Beyond the words that you hear, but before the mystery.”

Are you dumbfounded? And if you are, when do you think you are going to be able to speak it, of how what we celebrate today affects your life.

Fifty days. To examine each day. How is my life an example, a revealing, a proclamation of the power of the hope of Jesus Christ?

Some of us are going to take fifty days to answer that question. Others of us will probably walk up to me afterwards and say, “I know!” Okay.

Don’t waste these fifty days, my brothers and sisters. Use them well to open heart, mind and tongue for the glorious mystery that we celebrate in Christ Jesus.