

Lent
Series
2025



Glory to the
Living
GOD!



March 11, 2025

IN THE PASCHAL SCHOOL

“...To whom also He presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3).

From the beginning of His ministry, Jesus called people to discipleship. The influence He exerted on His disciples was not only through oral teachings but also through His life and works. In the school of Galilee, He taught them “as one who had authority” (Mt 7:29). In the school of silence (the cross and the tomb), He remained present through the conflicted remembrance of His teachings (Lk 24:13-45). Then, in the Paschal school, the formative process continued, though now in a radically different way.

There was something unique about Jesus’ discipleship school. The Master not only delivered disruptive lessons and remained entirely consistent with everything He said (which is already remarkable!), but He was also willing to give His life for His followers. He knew that He would have to die to be raised on the third day by the power of God. Although the cross took the disciples by surprise, they could not have imagined what would happen just a few days later. The resurrection would emerge as the climax of their formative process.

What they had “heard, seen, and touched” (Acts 4:20; 1 Jn 1:3), in some way, entered into crisis. The lessons they had received, the empty tomb (Mk 16:1-8), and the various appearances (1 Cor 15) were, by themselves, not enough to transition into the new stage of formation. In fact, some, though they heard and saw, still doubted (Mt 28:17). The resurrection introduced new realities with great consequences for the life and mission of believers in all times.

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The Paschal school is the school of the kingdom of life! In it, one does not live on the words and deeds of a dead, absent, and longed-for teacher. In it, Jesus remains present because He lives in, with, and through His followers. Through His victory, He has overcome the limits of time and space; and, more importantly, He has triumphed over the empire of death and sin. In this school, the constant presence of the Master matters more than the factual evidence of His resurrection itself.

The permanent presence of the risen Christ is what makes the difference: it gives meaning to everything He said and did and guarantees what He promised and what is to come. His presence does not free us from temporary hardships (Jn 16:33), but it gives us a joy that no one can take away (Jn 16:22), a hope that does not put us to shame (Rom 5:5), purpose and transcendence (Jn 10:10); it delivers us from the kingdom of darkness and transfers us to His kingdom of light (life, power, truth, and justice). Are you already part of this school?

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