

Homily for Easter Vigil 2009  
April 11, 2009

## Introduction

What can one say - what can one add - to what we are experiencing here this evening?

What can one say - what can one add - to what our sister and brothers in the household of the Christian faith are experiencing across the entire planet this night?

Perhaps one word that is new, a word that we heard as we began this solemn liturgy.

## I

The glorious hymn of praise called the "Exultant" which initiates this Easter Vigil has the words: "Exult all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ our Sovereign has risen. Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your Sovereign!"

## II

Those joyous words imply, I believe, that the resurrection of Jesus from among the dead affects not only all of humanity. It affects the entire created order as well - earth, universe, the cosmos.

## III

St. Paul puts it in these words: "He [Christ] is the first born of all creation and through [Christ] God was pleased to reconcile to God's own self all things, whether on earth or in heaven..." (Col. 1: 15)

And in another place Paul affirms: "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now." (Rom. 8:22)

## Conclusion

So, our growing awareness of our place in creation, of the threats to its health, of the care we must take for the earth, the sky and the universe is intimately connected with the resurrection from the dead of the first-born of God, Jesus the Christ.

With great reason, therefore, we sing tonight: "Exult all creation around God's throne; Rejoice, O Earth in shining splendor radiant in the Easter brightness of your Sovereign!"

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.