



From the Desk of Father Peter

The Gospel of the Lord



"The Lord be with you!" This is the greeting to the people from the deacon or priest before the Gospel is proclaimed. To this, we reply: "And with your Spirit." Then the deacon or priest announces: "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to...." And the Church replies, "Glory to you O Lord."

*Do you now notice the shift? In this last phrase we no longer speak to the deacon or priest, but to God. This is because the Gospel reading is the high point of God's verbal communication to us. Just as Jesus spoke with the crowds in Galilee, Jesus, in person again, proclaims his Good News to us when the Gospel is **PROCLAIMED** at Mass. Note here, I said "proclaimed" not read.*

We know how important Jesus' words are as we stand attentively and listen. Special signs of reverence are used to call attention to the Gospel—we make the sign of the cross on our foreheads, our lips and our hearts, asking God to open us to hear his word and imitate it in our lives. The Gospel book is adorned with a decorative cover; the Gospel may be incensed when available.

The Gospel is the culmination of all we have heard in the readings thus far. Jesus is the Good News, the fulfillment of what we have heard in the Old Testament, and the source of the New.

*After the Gospel has been proclaimed the deacon or priest says: "The Gospel of the Lord!" and we respond "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!" Sometimes the "Alleluia" is repeated as we remain standing. Such is the Good News of Jesus proclaimed to us today. If the Good News of the Gospel is to take hold of us then it is **NOT** to be kept to ourselves, but needs to be passed on to others. What is the Good News? **JESUS HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD!** Death has no more power—Jesus is **VICTORIOUS** over death! Therefore, the words of Jesus to the women who came to the tomb are the very words that can give us hope... **"DO NOT BE AFRAID."** With those comforting words comes an additional responsibility to God who says, **"GO AND TELL."** Who? **US** and **OTHERS!***

Rarely do we keep good news to ourselves in our everyday lives. We want others to share in our joy. It is the same with the resurrection of the Lord. We want the whole world to know that Jesus is Lord and has been raised up to the Father, and we have new life in **HIM**. We are born again, Alleluia! Our faith in God has been renewed. We can live differently from this day forward in Christ. *"This is the day the Lord has made! Let us be glad and rejoice!"* Let us ask for a fresh start in the Lord.



*Happy Easter to all,
Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*