

*CRIBB<S>NOTE – April 27, 2008*

We are living in the in-between. For the past month we have been celebrating the Holy Season of Easter. We are looking forward to the sacred moment of Pentecost. This period of being in the 'in-between' provides numerous opportunities to meditate on the deeper meaning of our faith. And truly it is faith that governs our path. There is nothing about Christianity that makes sense without believing in the inexplicable.

How do we explain Jesus' love to the point of dying the death of a criminal and never losing his love for those who falsely accused him of the worst kind of crimes and executed him? How do we tell others about his death and sudden resurrection to life? Is there a simply way to talk about his appearances to his disciples and ascension to heaven?

For two millennia believers have testified to Christ's extraordinary story and impact on human history. Even today the message continues as we listen for God's still speaking voice. We look back to the Cross and the empty tomb as evidence of eternal mercy, grace, and divine love. But that is only the beginning of our faith.

Ten days after Jesus departed his community, his promise was fulfilled. The Holy Spirit came like the wind and tongues of fire, resting on the small community gathered in Jerusalem. The promise of peace and comfort came and inspired unusual courage. The Christian faith was launched and has survived strenuous efforts to stop its spread. Worse, some people have had the audacity to twist the significance of Jesus' teaching to meet their desires to dominate and lord over others. Yet, the unflinching, uncompromising truth of Christ's love and God's mercy has sustained the assaults and continues to move us forward. Evil intention and actions cannot deter God's design for all humanity to realize the gift of real life. Disappointments, hurts, threats, and attacks against Creation cannot separate us from God's love.

So, here we are standing in-between the Resurrection and Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descends upon us breathing divine love into us. Around the world throughout time people have been touched by the incredible, unbelievable experience of an ever-present God who cares deeply about everything and everyone on earth. It is our faith that keeps us going even through times of uncertainty, insecurity, and doubt. Don't give up. Keep the faith.