

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

St. Paul writes of the mystery of the resurrection – the promise of the Gospel, the hope of faith. There will be a resurrection. All the world will be made new. On that day every man who ever lived will stand before God. Those who sleep in the dust will rise in the faith in which they laid down – some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. At the resurrection, dear Christian, you will receive a body. But it will not be like the body you have now. For all flesh is not the same flesh. Just as there are different kinds of flesh, so are there different kinds of bodies. There are terrestrial and celestial bodies, which differ in glory.

The body you now have is not glorious at all. It grows weak and fails. It is afflicted with illness and disease. It is fallen. It is terrestrial. It is temporal. It has been a vehicle for carrying out the sinful desires of your heart. The transgression begun in your heart has found fruition through your mouth, your eyes and your hands. The fallen body you now have has happily served your sinful desires, for you were conceived and born in sin.

So your body is always dying, for you dwell in Adam's flesh, justly experiencing Adam's curse. Your body must be sown in corruption. It must fall to the earth and be buried in dishonor.

But that you live, God took on your flesh. He who formed the first man from the dust took on the flesh of the virgin. The mouth that breathed life into your first father cried out from a

manger in Bethlehem. The voice that said "Let there be..." preached and taught in Galilee. He was made Man, God in a man's Body, to save you. He is God incarnate to save not only your soul, but your body.

For He received in His Body the just penalty for your perversion. He suffered in His Body the death you have deserved. And in the miracle of His resurrection, He defeated the death that enslaved you. He conquered the sin that imprisoned you. And He won the life that He freely makes yours.

So, in mercy, God glorifies your earthly body by making it the temple of His Spirit. He washes you externally, bodily, with water as He purifies your soul. He drives out the unclean spirit, and fills you with His Spirit. By that Spirit He creates a clean heart in you, that you be led - body and soul - to hearken unto His voice, to walk in His ways.

In this body He feeds you His Body in the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist. His life flows into you as you drink His Blood. Your ears hear His Word of forgiveness. Still, the glory of the body you will receive at the resurrection far surpasses that of the body you now have.

So does St. Paul write to explain a mystery that is beyond human comprehension, and yet is an article of faith. For if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the Firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man

came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made
alive.

When our Lord returns, those who believe in Him will be made
new. Your body will be raised in incorruption, in sinlessness.
Your body will be raised in glory, the image of God restored.
You will receive a spiritual body, and yet it will be a body,
passing human understanding but glimpsed in our Lord's
glorious transfiguration.

Your body raised in incorruption will never die. In that body
you will live forever with God. You will be like the angels,
neither marrying nor giving in marriage, the Bride of Christ
perfected by Her Groom and for Her Groom. And what Moses
and Elijah could not do, you will then do – you will see God
face to face, dwelling bodily in the unfathomable glory of His
presence.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and
may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is
faithful, and he will do it.

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy
Ghost.