

This text, full of theological contradictions, was presented to Christians on the occasion of Easter by the Jesuit Gintaras Vitkus, who recently retired from the priesthood.

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John 20:1-9 "He must rise from the dead"

On the first day of the week, very early, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, **"Took the Lord from the tomb", and we don't know, where did they put it "**

Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb. They both ran together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down and saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.

And immediately Simon Peter came running after him. He went into the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths, but rolled up and lying by itself. Then the other disciple, who had come first to the tomb, also went in. **He saw and believed. For they were not yet**

having understood the Scriptures that he must rise from the dead.

The author of the Gospel commentary is Father Gintaras Vitkus SJ.

"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" This is the true proclamation of Easter! This is the most important thing. the truth proclaimed by Christians, allowing us to recognize three very important things for our humanity: that a man who lived two thousand years ago Jesus of Nazareth was really God that his promise to raise from the dead everyone who trusts in him is not empty and that we are already receiving God's help and are capable of "small resurrections" from the graves and dead ends of our everyday lives.

But is Christ really risen? We know many of our peers who, upon hearing the Easter song, greeting, he smiles indulgently in his mind, saying: "Yes, yes, of course he is risen, what a beautiful metaphor, shall I start arguing and destroying your illusory understanding of reality, dear friend!?" There is no shortage of such skeptics or even those who fiercely criticize and ridicule such faith today, just as there was in the first centuries.

Today's Easter Gospel speaks of the first discoveries that caused confusion and anxiety. The tomb is empty, the body is missing! Maybe it was stolen? Where are the Roman guards? What kind?

possible versions of the disappearance? The Bible chapters describing those days reveal to us the initial reaction and **a deepening understanding of what happened.**

This understanding and belief that **Jesus rose from the dead, he didn't come out of nowhere** **rto** But it didn't take long than a few months, let alone decades, **until, according to critics, Christian apologists was able to present a formulated version about the resurrection of the Master and** **the connection with divinity** The belief that Jesus is alive took hold after He truly died on the cross. and truly buried, now here and now there, during meetings with persons of his own choosing, he would imbue them with peace, joy, and enthusiasm.

But it was necessary to wait for the feast of Pentecost, **until finally the students with deep conviction and courage began to preach the Good News.** **They preached Christ, the crucified one, whom God raised from the dead.** . Bravely **preached those two contrasting, seemingly incompatible things:** the terrifying instrument of death, the cross, and the resurrection to life. **And within a few centuries, the Roman Empire took over with this belief..** And then **The Good News has begun your journey to the rest of the world** Because it disarmed in its essence: "You are so loved that **God is not afraid to give his life for you.** **! Respond to this love!** **"Risk believing."**

What John "saw and believed" when he ran and entered the tomb was likely related to Jesus' promise **to return to the Father who sent Him** . First Jesus threw away the linen cloth in which the body had been wrapped, and then he slowly folded the cloaks that covered his face separately. Only later, in the "Prologue" of his Gospel, John would formulate another confession of his faith: to all who accepted him, he **gave us the power to become children of God,** – to those who believe in his name <...> By his grace we are all having received grace upon grace..."

One Bible scholar says that the stone was rolled away from the tomb not so that Jesus could leave, but so that we could enter the tomb and see that death has no power over the Lord of life.

On Easter morning or other days, we can go to the tomb of Christ in our church, see the stone rolled away from its opening, and realize that **God has also planned for us, for each of us, a future we never expected** Encouraged by this event, we enter into our imagination and **periods or areas of life that are as dreadful, stuffy, and desolate as tombs** We enter, look inside, and see not only the emptiness of the tomb, but also neatly arranged shrouds covering the faces.

All the events of Jesus' life, His death and resurrection, are a testimony that Jesus saves us.

Jesus is the one sent by God As Pope Francis said in one of his Easter homilies, "if we accept this, we acquire a password that helps us decode the sources of joy in life hidden in reality, even if we thought that our life was nothing but sadness, defeats, and darkness. God can grow the most beautiful flowers even in a rocky desert."

To be a Christian is not to see death, but to see God's love. , which defeats our greatest enemy. Paul, echoing the words of the prophets, cries out: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?!" (55). In these Easter days, may this cry also resound in our hearts and on our lips: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!" Amen.

COMMENT.

You don't have to be a logic professor to understand the absurdity of this text.

There are not one, but several logical errors here. After reading this, the following questions arise:

Is Jesus Christ really was God?

Where was it? God is gone who could to "steal" it?

Why did Jesus want to return? to his Father?

Who was His Father?? God or ...someone else?

Could it be?(can) people kill God?

"Jesus is the one sent by God" ... " - one more correct thought in the priest's text.

This is HOW the Teaching of Jesus Christ is compromised in Orthodox Christianity. I think that the former priest Gintaras Vikus himself should apologize to all believers after leaving work and correct his mistakes with a sincere public confession that he was wrong or was misled. No. They don't do that. What a pity. He was not the only one who was wrong. Others are still doing their so-called "apostolic work". I am not emphasizing the Jesuits in any way, the Catholic Orthodox deceive us just as much - it is enough to analyze their texts.