

EASTER SUNDAY 2021

Alleluia, He has risen as He said. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice. By dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life. Jesus stood by His promise and rose from the dead. Our journey through the struggles of Lent and the pain of Holy Week is over. With malice, evil had done its worst to the sacred body of God's Son. With Mary and John, we saw Him die. Then, before dawn on the 1st day of the week, Christ broke through the rock, shattered the power of sin and death and rose to life. Alleluia.

Over these past three days, we have traveled a long way from the Lord's supper through His passion to His death and today we stand at the empty tomb, not in blindness of unbelief, but in the light of faith. The Christ we celebrate today is not only the Christ of the cross, but also the risen Christ.

Easter is the greatest and most important feast in the life of the Church because of three main reasons. First, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for our faith. It is the greatest miracle and a proof that Jesus is indeed the Son of God as He said. St. Paul says in 1Cor. 15:14; If Christ has not been raised, in vain is our preaching and your faith.

Secondly, Easter is a guarantee of our own resurrection. Because of Christ's resurrection we believe that we too shall rise. He is the first to be born from the dead. In Jn. 11:25-36, Jesus assured Martha at Lazarus' tomb: "I am the resurrection and the life and whoever believes in me will live even though he/she dies. We are here because of our faith to celebrate the resurrection.

Thirdly, Easter gives us the assurance that Good Friday is not the end of Christ's story. There will always be an Easter, a resurrection. Even in our own lives, we should remember that suffering is not the end of life. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel. Nothing can destroy us completely – not pain, not sin, not rejection, not even death because Christ has conquered them all. We just have to put our faith in Him. Oh death, where is your sting?

The awareness of the presence of the risen Lord in our midst and the strong conviction of the resurrection should help us to control our thoughts, desires, words and actions. Then we shall be true witnesses of the resurrection not only in words but also in our actions.

We are called upon to show others the love, mercy, compassion and self-sacrifice of the risen Lord Jesus in our hearts through our lives. Let us be ready to render loving, humble and selfless service. No one has a greater love than one who offers his/her life for another and that is what the risen Christ did for us. We ought to follow His example.

Easter gives us hope that we are a people of the resurrection. So let us continue to work with hope against our sins, evil habits, dangerous addictions, despair, discouragement or even doubts. We are instead expected to live joyful and peaceful lives experiencing Christ alive in all the events of our lives and amid the boredom, suffering, pain and tensions of our day-to-day living.

The resurrection of Christ is such Good news that we should carry it around announcing that Christ is indeed risen. Like Mary, let us proclaim to the world that we have seen the Lord and that He is indeed risen. It is our mission to bring new life and hope to a troubled world. We must go and show what a difference the risen Jesus makes and proclaim that message everywhere. If we don't do it, who will?

Having commemorated the Paschal mystery, may we proclaim to the whole world our belief that Christ is not Lord of the dead but of the living. May we become beacons of hope for our world and always proclaim: Alleluia! He is indeed risen! Amen.