

Easter 2024

Christ has risen! Alleluia! The word, "alleluia," means "praise God."

We will always remember the Passion, but we are not people of suffering, and torture and death. We are people of life and of hope. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead.

On October 22, 1978, Pope John Paul II began his pontifical ministry with these words: "Be not afraid. Be not afraid to welcome Christ and accept his power." The world, he reflected, was afraid of itself and its future. To all those who were afraid, to all those who were caught up in the great loneliness of the modern world, the Holy Father said, "I beg you, let Christ speak to you. He alone has the words of life, yes, eternal life."

We all have problems in our lives, but we seek hope in our life journey. Hope is here. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. All is not lost. All is won. He has won. We have won. Death has been conquered. The new world has begun. United with Christ, nothing can destroy us. The worst pains of life cannot rob us of the hope of Christ's life.

The celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord is the celebration of our hope, our joy, our sharing in the New Life of Christ.

At our baptism we accepted the New Life of Christ. Our washing was itself a symbol of dying to a dead world and rising to a new life. We took upon ourselves the commitment to live this new life. We took upon ourselves the responsibility to spread this new life. We took upon ourselves the obligation to allow Christ to use us to transform the world.

The tomb is empty, Mary. But the world is full. The Savior Lives. May His Life change the world. May we let His Life change the world.

Saint John emphasizes in his Gospel that we should not fear, that the Lord is with us.

Jesus Christ lives today, and every day of our lives, with us. When he rose from the dead, he radically changed human history; he changed the course of faith and religion of the people of God.

today, a great reason to be joyful. This triumphant Resurrection of Our Lord shows us that Paschal Mystery is the fundamental for our personal lives. The Easter Proclamation has confirmed to us that, by his Resurrection, Christ saved us from the darkness of sin

“Do not be afraid,” John Paul II asserted. There is great reason to hope. Jesus Christ, our hope, has risen from the dead.

Today’s celebration, the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, is an invitation to transform our lives, to try to better our spiritual lives every day, to respect and be true to the promises we have had to him.

Life messages:

the Easter gives the joyful message that we are a “Resurrection people.” This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits and dangerous addictions. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the real presence of the Risen Lord in all the events of our lives. *“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad”* (Psalm 118:24).

We need to seek our peace and joy in the Risen Jesus: Jesus says *“Peace be with you!”* For the true Christian, every day must be an Easter Day, lived joyfully in the close company of the Risen Lord.

We are to be transparent Christians: We are called to be transparent Christians, showing others, through our lives of love, mercy, compassion and self-sacrificing service, that the Risen Jesus is living in our hearts.

Easter reminds us that every Good Friday in our lives will have an Easter Sunday. Each time we face a betrayal of trust, we share in the Resurrection of Jesus. In short, the message of Easter is that nothing can destroy us – not pain, sin, rejection nor death – because Christ has conquered all these, and we too can conquer them if we put our faith in Him.

Resurrection is about seeing our world in a new way. Early that Easter morning, Mary did not find what she was looking for, the dead body of Jesus. But she found something better than she could have imagined: The Risen Jesus. Sometimes, the things we think we want most are not granted to us. What we get instead is an experience of God’s new ways of working in the world. That’s the power of the Resurrection. When those moments come, we must spread the news--just as Mary did: *We have seen the Lord!*