

Easter Sunday 2024

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad! (Psalm 117:24)

So, those of us gathered to give thanks to God, reflect on this wonderful mystery of Easter. For, unlike any other day, Easter day really challenges us to own what we believe about Jesus Christ, the profound truth, the cornerstone of our faith: the resurrection of our Lord from the dead.

Throughout the season of Lent, we engaged in a journey of preparation, marked by charity, prayer, and penance. We looked inward, sought purification, and yearned for the renewal that Easter promises. And today, that hope we cherished and nurtured through the Lenten season is gloriously fulfilled as we proclaim, "He is risen!"

In our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 10:34, 37-43), Saint Peter speaks to us of the universal message of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. He recounts the good news that spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached. Peter testifies to the ministry of Jesus, his death, and his resurrection, to which he and the apostles are witnesses.

This passage invites us also to become witnesses of Christ's resurrection, to carry this message of hope and redemption to all corners of the earth, beginning with our own families and in our own neighbourhoods.

In his letter to the Colossians (Col 3:1-4), Saint Paul exhorts us to seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Our Lenten journey was a time to put to death our temptation to sin and self-fulfilment, to rid ourselves of uncharitable behaviour, and embrace a new life in Christ. Now, as we celebrate Easter, we are reminded that our life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, appears, then we too will appear with him in glory. This promise fuels our hope and propels us forward in our Christian journey.

In our Gospel today, the Evangelist John recounts the discovery of the empty tomb, a powerful testimony to the resurrection (John 20:1-9). Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the beloved disciple encounter the reality of the resurrection first-hand. They see and believe, even though they do not yet fully understand.

My brothers and sisters, this passage invites us to enter into the experience of these first witnesses of the resurrection, to see and believe in the transformative power of Christ's victory over death. Today, as we celebrate this victory, we are reminded that our old life has been purified and our new life in Christ equips us for discipleship in the world. Having died to sin with Christ on the Cross, we now rise with him, called to live the fullness of life he offers. This new life is not just for the hereafter; it begins now, in the way we live out our faith, in our actions and our witness to the love of Christ.

My dear people, our hope is not in vain. The resurrection assures us of our future with Christ, a hope of heaven that is both a promise and a call to action. As we go forth from this Easter celebration, let us carry the joy of the resurrection in our hearts. Let us live as people of hope, transformed by the love of Christ, eager to share this good news with the world.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Let us rejoice and be glad. Amen.