

The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 12, 2020

Alleluia! Christ is risen! (*He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*)

Have you lost your *temper* this Lent? Behold, your King comes to you with calmness, to soothe your mad fury.

Have you lost your *chastity* this Lent? Behold, your King comes to you with His purity, and by a Word makes you clean and virginal.

Have you lost your *health* this Lent? Behold, your King comes to you with His unending life.

Have you lost your *job* this Lent? Behold, your King comes to you, with free gifts, saying, “*Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*”

Have you lost your *hope* this Lent? Behold, your King comes to you with better things than you either desire or deserve.

Have you broken your *fast* this Lent? Feast anyway, for your Lord has kept the fast you could not.

Have you dishonored the Sabbath this Lent, failing to pray, failing to listen, failing to meditate on His Word? Behold, your Lord rested in the tomb on the Sabbath, keeping it in your stead.

Have you been harsh with your wife, disrespectful to your husband this Lent? Behold, the Bridegroom is risen, and gives you grace.

Have you looked at indecent images, foul and polluted? Behold in Christ Jesus the true image, the image of the invisible God, offering you pardon full and free.

Have you been furious with your brother? Pardon him.

Have you given offense to your brother? Seek his pardon.

For all is made new on this, the Day that the LORD has made.

This is the Day above all days that the LORD has made, for Christ is risen from the dead, and tramples down death by His death.

Why do you sorrow? Christ is risen, and gives you His joy.

Why do you fear? Christ is risen, and vanquished all your foes.

Why do you lust? Christ is risen, and gives you everything you need.

Why do you withhold your forgiveness? Christ is risen, and offers amnesty to all the human race.

Why do you cling to money? Christ is risen, and has redeemed you not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

When you: dent your car, scuff your shoe, drop your phone; scar your skin, chip your tooth, break your bone—you feel the pain of loss. Your possessions, your body, your life is slipping away from you, outside of your control. “Christ is risen” is no metaphor. It is not a spiritual thing, a faith or a feeling to brighten cloudy days or dull the pain of your impending death. No, “Christ is risen” means that the God who took on your flesh and bone bore on His shoulder a real cross of real wood, with splinters driving into His already bleeding back. His knees buckled. He stumbled. He could not continue.

When you cry out in agony, from physical pain or emotional despair, your Lord has been there. He knows your anxiety, what it means to be crushed with fear, surrounded by enemies, unjustly judged. In His true human body He took your flesh and bone to a Roman device of torture and execution, and in the deposition that real flesh and bone was taken to a real tomb, and there left to decay.

But God the Father would not let His Holy One see decay. In that flesh and blood, truly dead, He truly rose. "Christ is risen" is not metaphor but matter-of-fact, the one fact that gives meaning to this otherwise meaningless life. For Christ is risen not for Himself alone, but for you. Christ is risen as the firstfruits of them that sleep. The resurrection of Jesus is an announcement that His resurrection from the dead will be yours as well.

So when your economic future is uncertain, fret not. For the Creator of all things will give you day by day your daily bread.

When your body is broken, fear not. For He who is risen from the dead will open the graves and give life to you who are marked with His cross.

When your world appears to be collapsing around you, do not despair. For Christ is risen, and gives you His peace which the world cannot give.

Christ is condemned, and Barabbas goes free.

Christ is judged, and you are acquitted.

Christ is fallen, and you are raised up.

Christ is spit upon, and you are wiped clean.

Christ is mocked, and you are praised.

Christ is hated, and you are the Father's beloved.

Christ is finished, and you are begun.

Christ is killed, and you are reborn.

Christ is buried, and you are baptized.

The stone is rolled away, and the door to paradise is opened to you.

Christ is risen, and death is undone.

Christ is risen, and Adam and Eve are lifted up from hell.

Christ is risen, and you shall rise too.

Christ is risen, and the demons are put to flight.

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice.

So sing and dance, sound the organ and strike the tympani, for Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! *He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

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