

April 2021

Easter, A Time of Hope

Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

Today, we celebrate the glorious feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Today, we sing a hymn of victory, for in our Lord's Passover from death to life, Christ our God has brought us from earth to heaven.

Truly, "this is the day that the Lord has made; let us exalt and rejoice in it!"

On that first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene and the other myrrh-bearing women went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus, which had been taken down from the cross and laid in a new tomb. When they arrive, an angel greets them saying, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Go quickly and tell his disciples. So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples" (Matthew 28: 5-8).

As Christians we are above all people of hope.

The message of Easter is the message of hope. Jesus comes into the world as one of us to tell us of God's love and to invite us to follow him. In Jesus' death and resurrection, he offers us the hope of a new life, eternal life, in communion with God as God had intended when he first created us.

Pope Francis, in his latest book, "Let Us Dream, the Path to a Better Future," sees hope as one of the lessons learned coming out of the pandemic. He writes, "To come out of this crisis better, we have to see clearly, choose well, and act right. Let's talk about how. Let us dare to dream."

Crisis comes from the Ancient Greek κρίσις (krísis). [Remember My Big Fat Greek Wedding? Give me a word, any word, and I will show you that the root of that word is Greek!]. Crisis means decisive moment, a turning point. Crisis does not just mean that the world is coming to an end and I don't know what to do. Rather, crisis also has the meaning in the sense of opportunity, a crossroad, with a choice on which road shall we travel next.

Pope Francis offers a path to a better future. He sees hope coming out of the crisis of the pandemic. Amongst the inspiring words coming out of his book "Let Us Dream," the Holy Father writes:

We must redesign the economy so that it can offer every person access to a dignified existence while protecting and regenerating the natural world.

What is the greatest fruit of a personal crisis? I'd say patience, sprinkled with a healthy sense of humour, which allows us to endure and make space for change to happen.

When I speak of change I mean that those people who are now on the edges become the means of changing society.

We do not possess the truth so much as the truth possesses us, constantly attracting us by means of beauty and goodness.

Sin is a rejection of the limits that love requires.

Our greatest power is not in the respect that others have for us, but the service we can offer others.

Jesus' resurrection from the dead offers us new hope. But it also offers us a choice. We can return to our old sinful ways where me, myself and I are my closest and only friends, or we can see the world through new eyes, see creation and each other the way God sees us, with love and mercy. Let us dare to dream of a better future!

Easter is truly a time of hope!

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Bishop David