

Alleluia! Finally, the good guy wins! Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. We believe it because 11 of his closest friends said they saw Him risen, and they never recanted. For preaching it, they faced horrible deaths fearlessly, because Christ had promised the same resurrection for all who followed Him.

That's the Good News of the Resurrection: death is not the end of the story for Christ's faithful followers. This is the basic, bottom-line, Gospel message of the Church. Our destiny is resurrected life in everlasting communion with God. When all is said and done, we are infinitely loved.

The Resurrection vindicates Jesus: that he is the Son of God, and has the authority to forgive sin and reestablish communion between God and man. The Resurrection vindicates all that Jesus stood for, that living by his values are the way to God and eternal life. The path to true happiness is love, forgiveness, mercy, sharing, serving, helping, comforting – selflessness, not selfishness.

If we stay united to Christ in faith and by living His values, we will rise with Him from our tombs, and live with Him forever in the never-ending adventure of Heaven. Even though we are imperfect, if we stay close to Christ, our stories will have a happy ending. We will see the Risen Lord.

Jesus's Resurrection shows us the replaying pattern of Christian life, the ongoing cycle of the paschal mystery: from Good Friday to Easter Sunday, over and over again in our lives. For us believers, Christ's Resurrection is the power of eternal life at work in us, that gets us through our Good Fridays.

Make that the default setting of our expectations: happiness comes from following Christ, through the cross into the Resurrection. Expect Good Fridays in our lives, always followed by Easter Sundays.

Remembering the Resurrection gives us a deep, inner joy, even while we see the evils around us: cancer, COVID, crime, poverty, hunger, prejudice, as well as the disappointments and sufferings we personally experience. These will pass. New life will arise. Christ rose from the dead to show that suffering and injustice will not have the last word. Christ will set everything right.

Make an Easter resolution of some kind to help keep in mind the eternal life in Christ that is waiting for us if we stay faithful to Jesus. Really believe it with your whole heart: that we know the future; we know what's in store for us. And then let the Resurrection change how we live day-to-day.

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021
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