

Easter A

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's true. It's all true. Christ is risen!

That is the only that needs to be said today. In some ways it is the only thing that can be said. That Jesus has been raised from the dead is the only thing I really have to tell you today. Nothing more. Nothing less. It is the same thing the angel told the two women who went to Jesus' tomb. He didn't tell them once but twice. "He is not here; he has been raised." "He has been raised from the dead." It was true. They saw Jesus. They touched him. They heard his voice. It was all true.

Saint Matthew doesn't offer much more than that in his gospel. He does not explain how it happened; only that it did. He is more interested in us living the truth of this story than he is in us knowing the details of the story. The truth of this story, as he tells it, is earth shaking. It changes the ground on which we stand and the way in which we live.

Every year I come to this day wanting only one thing. I want to be told and reminded that the story is true, that it can be trusted, and that it is a reality in my life. I suspect that is what you also want.

Why do I say that? Why do I come here every year wanting to be reminded the story is true? Why do I think that is what you want?

Because at one time I was the priest at a funeral for a child. Because one time I talked and prayed with someone who was going to sit and wait at the bedside of a dying parent. Because at some other time a

woman called and told me her husband's surgery had not gone well. They discontinued life support. Because I have experienced the pain and devastation of Holy Week in the liturgies of the Church and in the circumstances of my life.

That is why I come here today wanting to be reminded this story is true. And you know what? I never leave here disappointed. I always leave here knowing that the truth of Easter – life, light, joy, hope – is greater than the truth of what brought me here.

And I don't for one minute think this is only about me. I think you know exactly what I am talking about. I don't think you are any different from me. Every one of you could name a darkness you have faced over the last year. Some of you are today sitting in the midst of darkness. I may not know what your darkness is or has been but I know it is real.

That's why I think you want to be told and reminded that this story is true. And you know what? You will not be disappointed. The angel's message to the women in today's gospel is the Church's message to us today. "He has been raised from the dead." It is still true.

The story is true. You can count on it. It's for you and your life. It was true yesterday, it is true today, and it will be true tomorrow. Sometimes it takes months or even years for resurrection to free us from the tomb and pull us out of the darkness but it will. That is the promise of today. God never leaves anyone in the darkness of the tomb.

The stone has been rolled away from the tomb. The day dawns with a new light. The earth quakes in celebration and joy. Christ is risen and in him so have you and I.

That's why this place is filled with light, candles, flowers, and alleluias. Those are not just decorations and songs; they are God's truth about your life and my life. They are the signs of Easter truth and resurrection reality.

Today reminds us that the light of resurrection always prevails. Darkness cannot overcome the light. Regardless of who you are, the light prevails. Regardless of what you have done or left undone, the light prevails. Regardless of your doubts or beliefs, the light prevails. Regardless of your life's circumstances, the light prevails. I can't tell you how it happens but I know it does. The light of resurrection always wins. Everything about today says we can trust that.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

That changes everything about how we live. We now live everyday as Easter. Christ's resurrection is not a one day celebration. It is a way of life. It means every cross flowers with new life, every tomb becomes a womb of new birth, and every darkness has been overcome by light. It's true. It's still true. Christ is risen!

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

La resurrección de nuestro Señor trae la verdadera paz y felicidad, dejando atrás todo miedo. Su resurrección llena de esperanza y gozo todo corazón que se encuentra hundido por la tristeza. El pecado no ha tenido la última palabra sobre nuestra vida, porque Jesús, al entregar su vida, amándonos hasta el extremo, no ha liberado de las ataduras que esclavizaban y oscurecían nuestra vida a causa del pecado. Gracias a la Resurrección del Señor, podemos descubrir el profundo significado y sentido que tiene su muerte en la cruz.

Los discípulos y las mujeres que habían seguido al Señor estaban tristes, experimentaban un gran dolor y desconsuelo. Su Maestro, su Señor, había sido condenado a muerte como un criminal; aquel hombre que había iluminado y transformado sus vidas desde el primer momento en el que se encontraron con Él, al experimentar su mirada y escuchar sus palabras, no está más. Experimentan el miedo ante los judíos. ¿Qué será de ellos, si con su Maestro han hecho tal cosa?, ¿qué harán con aquellos que le siguieron y afirmaban que Él era el Mesías, el Hijo de Dios? ¿Ha sido todo en vano, una ilusión o una mentira? Sabemos la respuesta, pero no se trata de saberla, sino de experimentarla y vivirla; experimentar cómo Jesús resucitado nos sale al encuentro; escuchar sus palabras «no tengas miedo»; dejar que esas palabras entren el íntimo de nuestro corazón, lo llenen de luz, de paz, de gozo y de esperanza. Experimentar que el don de la fe que hemos recibido no es una ilusión,

sino que es real, pero, sobre todo, que es vida. El Señor al resucitar ha vencido definitivamente el pecado y al diablo, ha derrumbado las murallas que obstaculizaban nuestro camino hacia la casa del Padre, nuestro verdadero hogar.

Que el gozo y la esperanza de la Resurrección guíen nuestra vida presente, sean el impulso, la fuerza y el sostén de nuestra respuesta libre y plena a nuestro Señor, como sus hijos, sus amigos y sus discípulos. El Señor, que nos ama infinitamente, desea que nuestra vida sea plena y feliz, por ello ha venido a este mundo, ha entregado su vida en la cruz y ha resucitado. **Amen.**