BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

April 17, 2022 • Easter Sunday • John 20:1-9

Jesus Is Risen

There is no question that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified; his death is a matter of historical record. But it is what happened on the third day after his death that changed history forever. Jesus, our brother and savior, was raised from the dead.

On Easter we celebrate that God's love conquered death and that Jesus is forever alive in the world. We rejoice in our freedom from the slavery of sin and the bondage of fear and anger that can lead us to sin. We rejoice in our own new life in Christ. Easter is an alleluia day. It is the greatest, biggest, most important feast day in every Christian's life, and it should be celebrated every day by every Christian.

Jesus came to our tiny planet to help us remember something that we had forgotten: We are children of God. Jesus is our brother not only on his mother's side, but on his Father's side, too. He shared our humanity to remind us that through him we share in his divinity.

Jesus died for this truth, rose in this truth and lives in this truth today, through each of us.

In baptism, we choose to live our lives in Christ as lovers, healers and peacemakers. There is no place for greed or prejudice. And as we grow into the divinity Christ shares with us, we become more and more freed from the slavery of fear and anger, self-righteousness and false pride. We grow away from sin and become the person God created us to be, using our unique gifts and talents to make a better world.

If we remember who we are and whose we are, our everyday lives take on new meaning. If we believe that we truly share in Christ's life, then we know that nothing can defeat us. Does this mean we won't suffer or get hurt? Of course not, but we know that no matter what we encounter, God's strength and courage are at our disposal. We are not alone.

What a message of hope in a world full of all sorts of hurtful things. Share this message with your children, and celebrate your life in Christ. Celebrate Easter. Have a party!

FAMILY RESPONSE

No matter what time of year it is, plan an Easter party. Work together to plan the party. You may even want to invite friends.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Easter is about new life. Where do you need new life in your everyday world? How can you claim it?

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