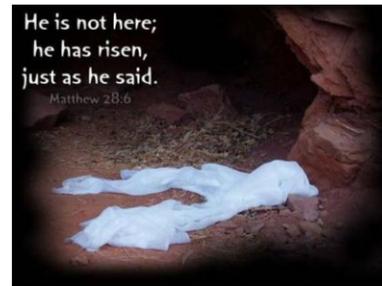
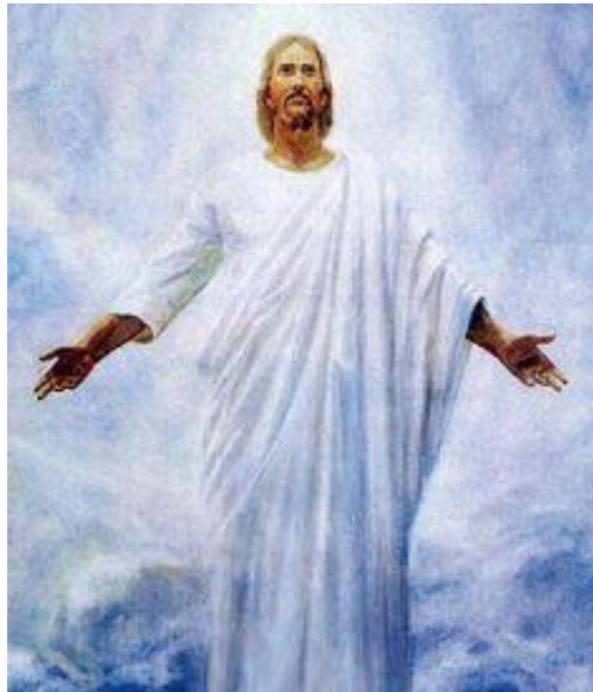


HAPPY EASTER

Christ is risen, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



Those to whom Christ has given light as He has risen, to them He has appeared spiritually- He has been shown to their spiritual eyes. When this happens to us through the Spirit, He raises us up from the dead and gives us life. -St. Symeon

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe. - St. Augustine

Spiritual communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with thee unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus is alive!

Jesus died on the cross for your sins. He rose again on the third day and went up to heaven.

Reminder:

Even though our Churches are closed, we praise You, Lord, at home and thank You for sending Your Son.

Church services have been cancelled, but Easter is not cancelled! Christ is risen! Remove our fears and worries about Coronavirus and bless us in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a,37-43

Peter preaches about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2,16-17,22-23

Rejoice in this day of the Lord.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Colossians: Having been raised by Christ, be concerned with what is above.

1 Corinthians: Let us celebrate this feast with new yeast.

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-9

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the Easter Season. Our Gospel tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes Him for the gardener. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in His appearances and in His gift of the Holy Spirit.

Family Connection

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that He is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, **Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Risen Lord; The Lord is truly Risen! Alleluia!!

Our Lord Jesus Christ who died on the Cross has risen and is now alive. He rose from the dead and opened for us eternal life with God. This is the truth of Easter.

This is the truth that we celebrate. This is the truth that we give witness to in our daily lives. We need to tell the world around us, at this time of Covid-19 virus, Jesus is risen and He is with us! We need to show the world that we are witnesses to this truth. We are His disciples.

The Risen Lord Jesus who is there for us all the time, will heal us, will remove this Corona Virus from the world. The Risen Lord Jesus is full of compassion and mercy. He hears our cry and He will answer our prayers. Let us continue to renew our faith in the Risen Lord. Let us continue to celebrate God's everlasting presence among us in the Eucharist. We can do this even now through our daily prayers and during this time of the pandemic through the use of internet and social media.

My prayer is that you will know all the blessings and joys of Easter, and that the presence of our Lord Jesus will be vibrant reality in your lives especially in this time of uncertainty. May the Risen Lord Jesus Christ be with you and bless you.

A Happy and Blessed Easter to you!

Father Joe

