



# Christ THE LORD *is* Risen Today

Easter Letter 2017

**Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!** We joyously shout this message in our hearts on Easter morning. But in our joy we can't forget the passion that has preceded His resurrection. Both are important to us as Christians.

Richard Rohr reminds us that "Christ Crucified is all of the hidden, private, tragic pain of history made public and given over to God. Christ Resurrected is all of that private, un-grieved, unnoted suffering received, loved, and transformed by an All-Caring God".

In Christ Crucified and Christ Resurrected we have the cosmic hope that God offers us. Without His resurrection, we would be left with the crushing sadness for what humanity has done to itself and to one another. But Jesus is the blueprint, the plan, the pattern discovered in one body and moment of history that reveals the meaning of all of history. The Cross is the reminder of what we do to one another and to God when we don't live into God's unending love for us. The Resurrection is the reality of what God has done for us. So, for me, and I hope for you, Easter is the announcement of God's perfect and final victory.

The risen Christ is on the move among us, but even at Easter we often we don't recognize him. Like Mary Magdalene, we sometimes weep by the tomb, interpreting events in their worst possible light, until we hear the risen one call our name. Like those walking to Emmaus, we might think the bad guys have won, until we see Jesus alive in the breaking of the bread. Like the disciples on the beach, we perhaps go back to our old lives of fishing, while the risen Christ is on the beach making a fire for a breakfast we're about to catch.

If we find that we're facing disappointment, discouragement, lack of faith or hope in our lives, my prayer for each of you this Easter- and always- is that you open yourself to discover that Christ is already here, perhaps unrecognized, but there, nonetheless. Today, may we once again hear our name called by Him, recognize Christ in the breaking of bread, cast our nets again, and know the Good News that the **Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Many blessings on you and yours on this Easter morning.

In His service and love,

*Eric<sup>+</sup>*