



A Prayer for Easter

Jesus, our Risen Savior, all glory and praise to You, for You bring light to our darkness, joy to our sorrow and fullness of love to our hearts.

On this Resurrection Day, we ask You to renew our hearts, minds and bodies with the new joy of this Easter Season. Guide us to keep focused on Your Holy Word that is all encompassing and pure.

Allow us to be a reflection of Your peace and enlightenment to this world which so desperately needs Your eternal presence.

*He is Risen!
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Amen.

*The Priests and staff of
St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
wish you a joyful Easter.*



Dear brothers and sisters,

Happy Easter to you and to your loved ones! We have reached that most beautiful hour when our Lord Jesus Christ has conquered death on our behalf. This is the highest feast of the Church, the reason for our hope. For this reason, we should rejoice, knowing that our salvation has been won for us. This is a great mystery to behold: that God was sent to us and entered into our humanity to redeem it. Jesus walked the path of suffering that we all must walk, that sad state of our fallen world. Not only did our Lord enter into our pain, but his was the greater. He was innocent, yet was treated as a criminal. He was ridiculed, rejected, tortured, and crucified, and died. He was God yet treated as rubbish. He went into the depths of tragedy for us. He did this so that he might redeem our human suffering and death. He endured it all for our sake.

But death could not hold him! Since he is the Son of the Living God, he had the power to overcome death. He defeated it, broke its power, and was raised from death to life! Through Jesus' resurrection, this Scripture has come to pass: "Death has been swallowed up in victory" 1 Cor 15:54. His resurrection gives us hope. It allows us to live knowing that Jesus will defeat death in us as well. We, too will be resurrected on the last day along with all those he has redeemed. This hope helps us overcome the trials and pains of this life, knowing that they will not have the final say. With Jesus, we will one day pass from this world of pain and death to eternal life.

For now, we are called to be faithful to the Lord, to live in his grace. We must allow his resurrection power to give us strength. We find this power in his Teachings, in his Word, in Prayer, and the Sacraments. Through them, we are transformed. If we allow Jesus to work in us in these ways, he will make us new, glorifying us, just as he has been glorified. We will move from death to life! And so my dear friends, may you have a most Blessed Easter, a time to give thanks for all that our Savior has done for us. He is Risen and lives forevermore! May we too live in him! May we too live forever in his love and power!

Fr. Ben

