

## **EASTER SUNDAY – Year C**

This Sunday we celebrate Easter. As I reflect on that miracle, I'm reminded this cute story that I'd like to share with you.

The Pope calls a meeting of all the cardinals. After they have assembled in the meeting hall at the Vatican, the Pope says, "I have good news & bad news. The good news is that I just talked to Jesus. He has been resurrected, so our faith in Him has been justified."

One of the cardinals stands up & says, "What's the bad news?"

The Pope replies, "He was calling from Salt Lake City."

Anyway, today we celebrate the biggest miracle of all - the resurrection of our Lord from the dead. This miracle is what the early disciples were hoping for. But, the Easter miracle is surely the morale booster for the disciples as well as for the whole world. For the world has not seen someone rise from the dead before. All of us humans have only one life to live. If we do not make good use of it, we will not have a second chance. So, our life is a precious, invaluable gift from God. We might not realize that, or might take gift for granted. But, today's miracle wants to remind us how precious the gift of life is. This Easter miracle also points us to something greater, namely, the eternal life in God's Kingdom.

In the last couple of years, we've had to cope with Covid-19 & its awful effects – from life disruption to millions of death around the world. We've had to wear masks, take temperature, wash hands, sanitize our surroundings, observe social distancing, vaccinate, & follow other safety procedures to keep ourselves from the Covid-19 virus & its deadly effects. We're fearful of Covid-19 & other viruses because we all hate death. We might not say it out loud everyday that we give thanks to God for the gift of life. But, the truth is that most of us love life & would do anything to live one day longer. So, we're overjoyed to hear someone rise from the dead like Jesus & welcome the Easter miracle with open arms.

For the last forty days or so, we've seen an evil & tragic war happening in Ukraine. That war has caused unimaginable destruction & countless deaths. The horrible images of innocent deaths & war crimes make us cry & shock the conscience of the world. This terrible war has highlighted to us the importance of peace & the gift of life. Unfortunately, we have evil people like Putin who has no regard to the gift of life & would destroy anything & anyone that might keep him from his wicked desires. They treat innocent human life like trash compared to their selfish, wicked desires. Those evil people & the horrible war in Ukraine help us remember how fragile & precious the gift of life. We need to do everything possible to protect it & give thanks for it every day.

Thankfully our Lord was able to push back the power of darkness & defend the gift of life for us. He conquered death by enduring all the suffering & sacrificing His own life for us. He showed us the way to eternal life by making personal sacrifices in this life. He opened the door to the Kingdom of God for us through the empty tomb. It is up to us to run to that door & the empty tomb to find our way to the eternal life. That's why we've learned that early on the Easter morning three of the disciples – Mary Magdalen, Peter, & John - ran to the tomb & discovered it to be empty. The empty tomb is the first sign of new life & the Easter miracle. We need to run to the empty tomb & give ourselves a chance to meet the risen Christ & have a taste of eternal life.

My dear brothers & sisters, the empty is the first sign of the Easter miracle & the hope of the eternal life for Jesus' disciples. I know that we might feel down or lost in this life at times. But, we should not let the power of darkness take away our right to life & our dream for the eternal life. We must call on Jesus & the whole world to help us promote the gift of life & point people to the eternal life. When we stay focused on that mission, we'll find many signs of the Easter miracle & meet the risen Christ every day. Let me leave with you this poem to encourage you to cherish the gift of life every day.

### HE LIVES

I see Him in the sunset  
With its muted crimson glow,  
The crowning of a lovely day  
As oceans ebb & flow.  
Not only in the mountains,  
Can His majesty be seen  
But in a tiny leaf of gold  
Of a spreading chestnut tree.  
In fields of yellow buttercups  
Or crimson-petaled rose,  
In every plant & flower's bloom  
I see His love exposed.  
It's in the tiny rivulets  
That flow o'er rocks & rills,  
The mighty oceans' rolling tides  
With foaming waves He fills.  
How can I doubt He lives  
When sun & mountains, sky & sea  
Proclaim existence of a God  
Who rules with majesty?  
I view Him everywhere as I  
With eyes now clearly see  
Earth's treasures once so hidden  
Now being revealed to me.  
I stand in awe & worship before  
His wonders grand displayed  
And praise the mighty God who  
Worlds with miracles arrayed.

By *Helen Gleason*