

A great chorus reverberates throughout the world today: Christ is risen, alleluia. This is the victory shout upon which we pin all our hopes. For us, Christ has broken off the chains of death. For us, Christ has trampled down the powers of hell. The utter despair of death is replaced with the exuberance of life. This is what we celebrate at Easter: new life in Christ.

This new life in Christ came at a very heavy cost. We were reminded of this as we journeyed through Holy Week, especially on Good Friday. Christ endured the agony of the cross for us. He was pinned to the cross in order that we may gain freedom. He was stripped naked in order that we might be wrapped in glory. This is the testimony of God's great love.

Easter gives us the opportunity to ponder ever more deeply the transformative power of this love.

Love is always redemptive, hate destructive. Love purifies, hate sullies. Love forgives, hate condemns. There is so much hate in our world today. So much greed. So much fear. The only foil to this destructive path of humanity is love. It is easy to become overwhelmed by the violence and injustice that wreaks havoc upon our world. But Jesus faced the hostility of those who sought to kill him with love. And this love of Christ was so powerful no force could contain it. This love broke through the confines of death. Christ burst forth from the tomb. Nothing in the universe could restrain this love.

Christ's death and resurrection is God's clear and unequivocal message to us. Death, sin and evil do not have the final say. Easter is a time to celebrate this victory over death. Not only does the Easter message give us the hope that will help get us through life's challenges, but by entering into this great mystery of God's transformative power we too rise to new life in Christ.

Peace & Blessings  
Gerard