



HE IS RISEN TO DIE NO MORE

Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the Paschal Mystery stands at the heart of the Christian faith. In fact, Easter is not merely the remembrance of a past miraculous event. Still, the proclamation of an eternal victory that reshaped history, redeemed humanity, and transformed death itself. The resurrection of Jesus Christ, which we commemorate during the Easter season, declares a decisive truth: “He is risen to die no more.” Good Friday, with all its darkness and apparent defeat, could not keep Him nailed forever on the cross. The sealed tomb could not imprison the Author of Life in rising from the dead. Indeed, Christ inaugurated a new creation, opening the way for a new life for all humanity. Easter, therefore, is not an appendix to the Cross; rather, it is its fulfillment and final triumph of life. Though this event occurred more than two thousand years ago, its theological and moral significance continues to shape Christian faith today.



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Good Friday: The Apparent Victory of Death

Good Friday presents one of the greatest paradoxes in Christian theology. The Son of God hung lifeless on a Roman cross, mocked by the Jews, abandoned by his disciples, died, and was buried. To human eyes, on this occasion, death appeared victorious. As the prophet Isaiah foretold, “He was despised and rejected... cut off from the land of the living” (Isaiah 53:3,8). The powers of sin, violence, and injustice, on Good Friday, seemed to have prevailed over the sacrificial act of love.

However, Scripture reminds us that the Cross was never an accident nor a defeat. The apostle Peter proclaims that Jesus was “handed over according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God” (Acts 2:23). Theologian Jürgen Moltmann writes,

“The cross is not the end of Christ’s story; it is the place where God enters most deeply into human suffering in order to redeem it from within.” Indeed, Good Friday reveals not the weakness of God, but the depth of divine love. That’s why the Cross, which was a place of condemnation to death for the sinners, has become, with Christ, a sign of salvific victory to humanity: the Glorious and Holy Cross.

Still, the question remained: could death hold Him? Could the nails and the tomb have the final word?

The Tomb That Could Not Hold Him

The Gospel accounts emphasize the finality of Jesus’ burial. A great stone was rolled against the tomb’s entrance; Roman guards were posted to secure it

(Matthew 27:62-66). Every human precaution was taken to ensure that death remained permanent. But Easter morning shattered these expectations. Indeed, death no longer has the final word in human existence, for Christ has risen from the dead and brings eternal life to humanity. That's why in the creeds we proclaim that: He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell (to destroy the power of death), the third day he rose again from the dead. Though the angel's proclamation resounds through history: "He is not here; for He has been raised, as He said" (Matthew 28:6). Indeed, the tomb was not opened to let Jesus out; it was opened to show the world that He was already gone to His origin with the Father. As St. John Chrysostom famously preached, "Death took a body and discovered God. It took earth and encountered heaven."

Saint Paul captures the theological depth of this moment, saying: "Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him" (Romans 6:9). This is the heart of Easter: Jesus rises not to return to mortal life, but to enter a glorified, indestructible existence for our sake. He has risen to die no more.

Resurrection: Final Victory of Jesus

The resurrection is the Father's definitive "yes" to the Son and God's decisive "no" to sin and death. As N. T. Wright explains, "The resurrection is the beginning of God's new world. It is not life after death, but life after life after death." Easter indeed signals the dawn of a new age where death's authority has been broken. And Paul proclaims triumphantly, "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:54-55). The victory of the resurrection is not symbolic or metaphorical; it is real, cosmic, and irreversible. Resurrection indeed vindicates Jesus' identity as the Son of God (Romans 1:4) and confirms that the Kingdom of God He proclaimed has truly begun.

Theologian Karl Barth writes, "The resurrection is the turning point of the world. It is the revelation that God's love is stronger than human sin, and

divine life stronger than human death." Indeed, Resurrection assures believers that no power, political, spiritual, or mortal, can ultimately overcome God's saving purpose, which is to build a new life and give the privilege to experience eternal life with Him and in Him.

The resurrection of Jesus is not an isolated miracle; it is the source of new life for the entire human family. Saint Paul emphasizes this universal dimension: "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). In this case, through Christ's resurrection, a new humanity is born and our Baptism itself, which initiates us as Christians, is rooted in Easter theology: "We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). That's why the liturgy of the Easter vigil mass requires renewal of our Baptism. Through the risen Christ, humanity is restored, healed, and elevated: fear gives way to hope; despair yields to joy. We can easily understand here that the resurrection announces that suffering, sin, and death do not define humanity's final destiny; life does.

Conclusion: Living in the Light of Easter

In summary, "He is risen to die no more" is not only a proclamation for Easter morning; it is a truth meant to shape Christian existence every day. Indeed, Good Friday reminds us that suffering is real, but Easter assures us that it is never final. The tomb reminds us of human limits, but the resurrection proclaims God's limitless power over sin and death. In fact, because Christ lives, humanity is offered a new beginning. Because the tomb is empty, hope is never empty. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "The resurrection is not a myth or a dream; it is God's answer to the deepest question of human existence." Easter proclaims the final victory of Jesus; a victory that no cross could cancel, no grave could contain, and no power could overturn. In the risen Christ, death is defeated, history is redeemed, and humanity is invited into new life. Alleluia. He is risen indeed, and He will die no more. Happy Easter to everyone! ■