

# Easter Sunday

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From fragility to Glory, the Resurrection of Christ can never be separated from His death. We do not simply proclaim, “Christ is risen” but rather, “Christ is risen from the dead.” The Cross stands before the empty tomb, and without the surrender of Calvary, there can be no victory of Easter. It is precisely in His rising from the dead that Christ transforms the Cross; from a sign of suffering into a sign of triumph, from an instrument of death into the gateway of life.

In the Gospel (John 20:1–18), we encounter Saint Peter standing before the mystery of the empty tomb. This is not yet the bold preacher of faith, but a fragile disciple; confused, searching, and still bound by fear. Beside him is Saint John the Apostle, the one who “saw and believed” though even he did not yet fully understand. The tomb is empty, yet their hearts are not yet full. They are caught between despair and dawning hope. How different is this Peter from the one we see later in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 10:34, 37–43)! There, he stands with unshakable conviction, proclaiming Christ boldly to the nations. The same man who once trembled before a servant girl now declares fearlessly that Christ is Lord of all. What changed? It is not merely from knowledge; it is through the encounter.

Peter progressed from seeing the empty tomb to experiencing the living Christ. As Saint John Paul II proclaimed: “Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ!” Peter becomes fearless not by his own strength, but because he allows the Risen Christ to enter, to transform his heart. Fear gives way to courage when Christ is truly encountered.

Similarly, Saint Paul the Apostle invites all of us: “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” Before the Resurrection, Peter and the disciples were bound to the earth; trapped in fear, doubt, and uncertainty. Their vision was limited, their hope fragile. After encountering the Risen Christ, their gaze was lifted. They no longer lived from below, but from above.



Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us: “All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.” The Resurrection is that divine light. No darkness of sin, fear, or death can overcome it. Even when the disciples stood in confusion before the empty tomb, the light had already begun to shine.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux gently teaches us: “Jesus does not demand great actions from us, but simply surrender and gratitude.” Peter’s transformation was not because he became perfect, but because he surrendered to grace. Easter is not about our strength: it is about our openness to the Risen Lord.

Easter, then, is not merely a celebration of an event in the past: it is a call; a call to rise. This is a call to move from fear to faith; from doubt to conviction; from earthly attachment to heavenly vision. The disciples were once entangled in the fragility of this world, but the Resurrection freed them to live with a new horizon.

Saint John Chrysostom proclaims with joy: “Christ is risen, and life reigns!” If life reigns, then fear no longer has the final word. Death no longer has dominion. The stone has been rolled away not only from the tomb, but from our hearts.

Dear brothers and sisters, Easter invites us to look beyond the earth and its fragility. Like Peter, we may stand at the tomb with questions, doubts, and weaknesses; but we are not meant to remain there. We are called to move forward to become witnesses; to become proclaimers; and to become people whose lives announce that Christ is truly risen.

Let us, then, lift our hearts. Let us set our minds on what is above.

Let us allow the Resurrection to transform us so that the world may see not just in our words, but in our lives; that Christ is risen... truly risen from the dead! Alleluia!