

## **Easter Sunday, Year "A" – Jesus Is Alive Forever, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Today is Easter Sunday. I wish all of you my beloved parishioners a joyful and glorious Easter celebration.

Peace be with you. Today is a joyful day. Jesus is used to making this day joyful for us, but today, God wants us to make it joyful for Jesus. Jesus went about doing good - preaching the good news of salvation, healing the sick, making the lame to walk, the dumb to speak, the deaf to hear, and lepers to become clean. On this resurrection morning, Jesus empowers us to continue God's healing ministry in world. Hence, we celebrate this day as a Day of Divine Empowerment. This is the day that marks the death of the coronavirus; hence, the world is now in a recovery mode.

Today, we recall what it was like on the first Easter morning: the world was in suspense, not knowing what to expect. What started like a joke has led to the death of an innocent man Whom many loved and yet a few hated. No one thought it could lead to death, and now, Jesus is dead. Even those who killed Him are not rejoicing because, as Jesus said on the cross, "They do not know what they are doing."

Like it was more than 2000 years ago among the Jews, today, our streets are deserted, our churches are empty, the temple veil is torn into pieces, there is darkness over the land, people are confused, and all are seeking for a sense of direction and meaning, not because of the death of Jesus, but because of the devastation caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

For three days now, we have been watching the suffering, death, and crucifixion of Jesus on our iPads, cell phones, laptops, and televisions. We have tried to make it real, but yet, it looks less than real because we are used to celebrating and not just watching it on television. Our hearts are restless, helpless, and forlorn as we watch the drama unfold. Just before our eyes, we see the unjust oppress the just. We detest it and would not want to be part of it.

On Good Friday, we saw how injustice prevailed over justice. It was the reign of hatred and terror. We saw human beings at their worst as people become blind to the truth and allow falsehood to prevail over the truth. Human arrogance is elevated, and pride is made to look like a virtuous deed. Behind this reign of lies and terror is human refusal to accept the truth.

However, when the apostles thought that the center can no longer hold, there comes good news from no other but Mary Magdalene that Jesus is alive. Jesus has risen to die no more. Our hope in God is vindicated....

The coronavirus continues to cause untold havoc in the world. Our hope is that the risen Lord will save us from this moment of terror. As the faith of the apostles was vindicated more than 2000 years ago, so we believe that it will be vindicated again.

My prayer is that this Easter Sunday will mark a radical turning point in our struggle to overcome the ravaging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic which has changed, if not destroyed, the world as we used to know it. May the new world that begins with the resurrection of Jesus restore order, purpose, and meaning to our lives again. We pray that the coronavirus becomes a thing of the past, and the children of God may begin to enjoy the peace which only God can give.

We are the Easter people. We have every reason to believe that the reign of love has begun. We shall not die; we shall live to sing the praises of the risen and glorified Lord, who calls us out of darkness into His wonderful light.

All who believe in the resurrection should weep no more. Let's celebrate for Jesus has conquered the world, even death could not hold Him. As Jesus lives to die no more, so all who believe in Him shall rise from the scourge of the coronavirus to live for the greater glory of God forever. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen.