

Through the Empty Tomb our hearts are filled with JOY

We stopped saying or singing the “Alleluia” in our liturgical prayers during Lenten Season, but here again it’s back. We are joyous to proclaim: The Lord is risen, Alleluia! The resurrection of Jesus becomes the key to remove all the burdens to a life of unity with God. The large stone that covers Jesus’ tomb was rolled away, and the tomb was empty. This symbolizes that all roads to God is cleared. The resurrection of Jesus reconnects the relationship of humanity to God. The stone represents humanity’s slavery to sin. So, since it was rolled away, humankind is now free to encounter with God.

We are Easter people who believe that the Cross transformed all suffering and pain and the Resurrection secured the promise of eternal life.

The empty tomb has a great significance for us. It is our sins that made the tomb where Jesus was buried. Our pride and selfishness served as the stone that sealed the dead Jesus in the tomb. Our vices and evil tendencies were the burial cloths that bound his dead body from head to foot.

Jesus died for us that we too may die to our sins. He was buried with our pride, selfishness, vices, and hopelessness. His victory over death therefore means for us victory over our sins.

The empty tomb means that our Lord Jesus Christ had taken away the powers that bind us forever to death, hopelessness and helplessness.

New life is assured for us – not only in the life after death, but in the HERE and NOW. With the Risen Lord, we can all begin anew. Easter is not only an event that happened some 2000 years ago, but it is ongoing in the here and now. Each of us can rise to new life in Him.

Easter is, therefore, all about a new beginning. We begin afresh. The facts of life tell us that nothing comes to an end, rather endings signify a new beginning. The Holy Week doesn’t end on Good Friday (time of sorrow) but it will ‘end’ on the day of Resurrection (time of joy).

According to the sciences: Physics teaches us that energy is never lost or destroyed but only transformed; Biology opens our eyes to the reality of life cycles that govern the world of nature. With the Resurrection of Jesus, we discovered that life continues even after earthly death.

It is a reminder to us to make new beginnings. Where we have failed, there we begin again. Life experiences have emboldened our resolve to try and begin again. “True failure is not to try to begin anew and that the experience of failure is but a road and lesson toward success.” With the Risen Lord accompanying us in our earthly daily pilgrimage, why then can we not succeed? If the victorious Risen Lord is within us, then, we can only look forward to victory amidst the experience of our downfall.

There is nothing in the past, however bad, sad, sinful, shameful, or painful, that could hinder us from breaking out into a better future, opening us into a new beginning!

Whenever we do an act of kindness, forgive someone who has wronged us, initiate reconciliation and make peace; whenever we give and share our blessings to others, we become like the disciples going away quickly from the empty tomb to meet with the Risen Lord.

My dear friends, yes, indeed **through the empty tomb of Jesus our hearts are filled with joy.** Happy Easter to one and all!

