

# Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of the Lord, April 1, 2018

Acts 10:34A, 37-43; Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; 1 Corinthians 5:6B-8; Luke 24:13-35



by Alexandra Carroll

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! These words greet us with excitement and promise on the Easter morning. After 40 days of fasting, prayer and reflective contemplation, we mark the resurrection of our Lord.

As we begin the Easter season, with the promise of the Kingdom of God now clearer than ever, we are faced with the question: how can we witness to the resurrection in our lives? The readings for today challenge us to live the resurrection in the midst of a broken world.

The hope and expectation of new life are cornerstones of the Christian life. Yet, we live in a world where the promise and glory of the resurrection is often overpowered by the pain and suffering of so many.



Can the promises of Christ be true? Is new life with God really upon us? Questions like these flood the minds of us all as we watch families being torn apart by deportation, children growing up amongst violence and war, and a culture of vengeance furthered through the continued use of the death penalty.

The cry from the dismayed disciples along the road to Emmaus echoes this lament: “But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel,” (Lk 24:21).

In the midst of all this, the events of Easter serve as a reminder of the truly countercultural nature of our God. In light of the events of the resurrection suddenly the prophecies of the scriptures make sense. After the disciples encountered Christ on the road to Emmaus, “their eyes were opened and they recognized him,” (Lk 24:31).

This is the task of the Christian. As we continue to live as an Easter people we are called to be “witnesses of all that he did,” (Acts 10:39). That witness to the promise and joy of Easter Sunday can become manifest in our encounters with others. Welcoming the stranger, sharing a meal with the outcast, visiting the prisoner, or presence to those experiencing sorrow are all encounters that Christ invites us to engage in. Just as the disciples encounter Christ in the midst of their dismay and found the faith to witness to the power of the resurrection (Acts 10:42, Lk 24:35), so too in our despair over the troubles of our world can we find the glory of the resurrection in our encounters with others.

Clinton Lee Young, a death row inmate in Texas who received a stay of execution in October of 2017, further illustrates this power of encounter. In a letter to Catholic Mobilizing Network, Clinton wrote:

*“Many have written with sadness, because of my situation. Sure I might not have physical freedom beyond the confines of this cell. Though I am blessed in so many more ways. The endless love of so many. The ability to reach out & inspire others in positive ways. Sadly many that are free are locked in their own prisons. They never get to truly appreciate the joys of love and life.”*

We must remember the joy of Easter Sunday. Despite the sadness and confusion and despair, we may be feeling, the hope and promise of new life must not escape our view. As we continue into the Easter season, we must open ourselves to the witness of those we encounter so as to live our lives as a witness to all that came to fruition on Easter, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?” (Lk 24: 32).

Even on death row, Clinton Young experiences the power of encounter, *“The people in my life make the cell door mean so little.”*

What can you do to encounter the risen Christ in your life? How can we live as witnesses to the resurrection in our broken world? This Easter, let’s allow ourselves to be open to encountering the risen Christ as he appears in our broken world. May the joy and promise of the resurrection carry you into new life.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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