



“The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!”

Luke 24:34

“Christ is risen! He is truly risen!” Throughout the world the Easter proclamation sounds again as it has nearly 2000 times before. Jesus of Nazareth, crucified for all to see, has come forth from the tomb overflowing with life. But He has not gone to live in some far-away and inaccessible dimension; He has not left us behind to fend for ourselves in this vale of tears. No. Just as He emptied Himself to die *for us*, so He has filled Himself with life—He has risen—*for us*. The Lord Jesus has *come back to us* from the dead to *share His victory* with those who sent Him to the Cross. On the eve of His Resurrection He breathes out His life-giving Spirit to give His Church the power to free us from the sins that nailed him to the Cross. Repentant and forgiven, we rise from them to live from the heart the new life of the Risen One in our midst.

Jesus told His disciples in advance that He would die and rise, and they asked one another what “rising from the dead” might mean. They didn’t know and couldn’t—until they encountered the unmistakable, unavoidable reality right before them. So it is with us. We can’t grasp the Resurrection if we keep ourselves at a distance of uncommitted neutrality. Like doubting Thomas, we must come close enough to touch the mystery, close enough to *know* by faith that Jesus was wounded *for us*. Only then can we take the decision to live our lives *for Him* Who loved us and gave Himself for us. “Christ is truly risen.” He Who lives now lives in us.

Peace and joy to you this Easter.

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