



Easter 2019

Sisters and Brothers,
May God's grace and peace be with you as we celebrate the great victory of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. On Easter Sunday, we celebrate that our Lord Jesus Christ has defeated the powers of sin, death, and the devil by opening the way for you and me to be brought into his eternal life.

We celebrate that in Jesus we receive the great gift of salvation, a gift that is poured into us through the grace and mercy of almighty God. We proclaim today that, "Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!" and we rejoice that because he is risen we too shall rise. Thanks be to God!

There is something interesting about our Easter gospel reading, Luke 24:1–12. You might have noticed on the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus doesn't actually show up in this reading or chapter. We might think this strange. The whole story of the gospel has been building up to this great victory of the resurrection, but when the resurrection occurs in Luke, we don't see Jesus because this account is about the mission of Jesus Christ and how he is calling us into his life.

When we read on, we find Jesus in chapter 25 where he appears to the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. The risen Lord is not hanging around the tomb waiting to be discovered. The risen Jesus has work to do and he is immediately out on the road looking for his people and bringing them the good news of his resurrection.

I always find this a very poignant moment in the gospel—the first time we see the resurrected Jesus in Luke we see him on the road seeking out his people. When he walks with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, he is teaching them, comforting them, and eventually he will feed them.

Had we been betrayed, abandoned, mocked, beaten, and wrongfully killed, our first reaction upon resurrection would most likely not be mercy, grace, and forgiveness but rather anger and



Easter 2019

Sisters and Brothers,
May God's grace and peace be with you as we celebrate the great victory of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. On Easter Sunday, we celebrate that our Lord Jesus Christ has defeated the powers of sin, death, and the devil by opening the way for you and me to be brought into his eternal life.

We celebrate that in Jesus we receive the great gift of salvation, a gift that is poured into us through the grace and mercy of almighty God. We proclaim today that, "Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!" and we rejoice that because he is risen we too shall rise. Thanks be to God!

There is something interesting about our Easter gospel reading, Luke 24:1–12. You might have noticed on the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus doesn't actually show up in this reading or chapter. We might think this strange. The whole story of the gospel has been building up to this great victory of the resurrection, but when the resurrection occurs in Luke, we don't see Jesus because this account is about the mission of Jesus Christ and how he is calling us into his life.

When we read on, we find Jesus in chapter 25 where he appears to the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. The risen Lord is not hanging around the tomb waiting to be discovered. The risen Jesus has work to do and he is immediately out on the road looking for his people and bringing them the good news of his resurrection.

I always find this a very poignant moment in the gospel—the first time we see the resurrected Jesus in Luke we see him on the road seeking out his people. When he walks with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, he is teaching them, comforting them, and eventually he will feed them.

Had we been betrayed, abandoned, mocked, beaten, and wrongfully killed, our first reaction upon resurrection would most likely not be mercy, grace, and forgiveness but rather anger and

perhaps even seeking vengeance. Our Lord Jesus reaches out in love to those who betrayed him and brings salvation to the world that tried to destroy him. This is the true love and mercy of our Lord and our God.

That same Jesus is the one who is with us now. We follow the Jesus who comes after us and seeks us out. Our Lord is continually calling and welcoming us to him. This Jesus also sent the Holy Spirit to do that continual work of pursuing us and bringing us back to our life with God and with our Lord Jesus.

This Easter we thank God for the victory of Christ Jesus—the one who is always calling, inviting, and looking for us. Jesus loves you so much. He doesn't give up on you or me--ever. He always welcomes us into his life and invites us to walk with him.

May you know the presence of Jesus Christ who is with you now and always.

God bless you and Happy Easter
+Bishop Michael L. Rhyne

perhaps even seeking vengeance. Our Lord Jesus reaches out in love to those who betrayed him and brings salvation to the world that tried to destroy him. This is the true love and mercy of our Lord and our God.

That same Jesus is the one who is with us now. We follow the Jesus who comes after us and seeks us out. Our Lord is continually calling and welcoming us to him. This Jesus also sent the Holy Spirit to do that continual work of pursuing us and bringing us back to our life with God and with our Lord Jesus.

This Easter we thank God for the victory of Christ Jesus—the one who is always calling, inviting, and looking for us. Jesus loves you so much. He doesn't give up on you or me--ever. He always welcomes us into his life and invites us to walk with him.

May you know the presence of Jesus Christ who is with you now and always.

God bless you and Happy Easter
+Bishop Michael L. Rhyne