

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

~ Psalm 118: 24



**S WE CELEBRATE** the happiest and greatest Feast in our Church, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us reflect for a few moments on the meaning of Easter to us here and now. To millions of unbelievers and even to some Christians, it means no more than Easter bonnets, coloured eggs, bunnies, a special feature at the movies or an Easter Parade. They hear the Easter bells and joyous Easter songs proclaiming the Resurrection of Christ but they don't know what it's all about and they don't care for they want to do their own thing. For those of us who believe, Easter is the great and most joyous event in the history of the world — the foundation of our faith. It is the Feast of Victory, the victory of Christ over Satan, death and sin. His Victory and Resurrection is a guarantee of our victory and resurrection. This is the reason for our joy — we are a redeemed people — God loves us.

On Good Friday, when the Jews put Jesus to death, they rejoiced in their triumph but they remembered that Jesus said while He was still alive that He would rise on the third day; so they put their own soldiers to guard the tomb which was sealed with a large stone. On the third day — Easter morning, the guards saw the stone rolled back and Christ rise, glorious and triumphant. They ran quickly to tell the high priests that Christ has risen. They should have believed because it was their own guards that brought them the news, but where there's jealousy, hatred and envy, there is no room for faith. That same morning the holy women came to anoint the body of Jesus. When they reached the tomb, the stone was already rolled back and an Angel said to them: “Do not be afraid; for I know you see Jesus Who was crucified. He is not here, for He is risen; and behold He goes before you into Galilee; there you shall see Him.”

The Gospels give further proof in the eleven appearances of Christ to different individuals and groups: to Mary Magdalene, to the pious women, to St. Peter, to the disciples on the way to Emmaus, to all the Apostles except Thomas, to all of the with St. Thomas, to five Apostles and two disciples at Tiberius, to eleven Apostles at Galilee, to five hundred brethren together, to James and to the eleven Apostles at Jerusalem. Jesus not only appeared, He talked and ate and showed His wounds to prove to them that He was risen bodily. In fact, all the Apostles, with the exception of St. John, gave their lives for this belief. Millions of Christians, bishops, priests and nuns gave and are giving their lives today for this belief.

Men and women do not die for a lie. Nor do they die for something uncertain, something of which they are not sure. That fact, that reality, that truth: “Jesus rose from the grave” and we will rise one day, makes us happy today, because we know for certain that those near and dear to us with whom we part in this life, we'll meet again in another life. Christ's Resurrection gave a purpose and a meaning to life.



People complain today that Easter isn't what it used to be. Easter hasn't changed but **PEOPLE HAVE**. You cannot expect to experience the joy and happiness of Easter when you've lost faith in Christ or live as if He did not exist. You must **LIVE YOUR FAITH** to experience the joy, happiness and peace it brings to everyone who believes. Every Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. Christ invites everyone to come and share the blessings of His Redemption. Do we care?

May the risen Christ fill your hearts with renewed faith, hope, and joy. May He comfort the sick and sorrowful. May His love, peace and joy be with you always. Happy Easter to all!

**Христос Воскрес! Воистину Воскрес! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**