

Pastoral Letter
April 4, 2021
Easter

Easter People and Easter Living

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

During this Easter season it is good for us to reflect on who we are and how we live in the light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time to remember that we are Easter people and that we are to be about Easter living.

How do Easter people live? We live in the forgiveness of all our sins through faith alone in Jesus Christ. Through His grace and by His gift of reconciliation we now live in a restored relationship with God the Father and with one another as the body of Christ, the Church. We speak to one another in love, encouraging one another in our Christian faith, building up the body of believers because of our love for Jesus and what He has done for us.

How do Easter people live? We live in the shadow of the cross. We remember what price Jesus paid for our salvation and the bloody consequences of our sins. We remember that it is because of His great love for us that we can now love one another in Christ. We remember the sins of others no more and we regard their sins to be as far from us as the east is from the west.

How do Easter people live? We live in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. We live knowing that we are saved by His grace that is revealed to us in His Holy Word—the Bible. We seek the knowledge and the wisdom of the Lord by daily reading His Word

and sharing that Word with our families, our neighbors, and our fellow believers in Christ.

How do Easter people live? We live in service to one another, seeking the good in others, and helping those who need our loving care. We remember that Jesus came to serve, not to be served, and has bid us to go and do likewise. We seek to help others and to lend a hand when our neighbor is in need. We share about the loving, nail-pierced hands of Jesus with those who are lost and in need of a Savior. We speak the Words of forgiveness and new life, in Jesus' name, to those who are in despair and hurting.

How do Easter people live? We take a stand and defend those who cannot defend themselves. We fight for the pre-born child, the crippled, the homeless, the defenseless, and the aged. We fight to preserve life and to stop those who would take the lives of those who cannot fight for themselves. We remember that all life is quality life because it is a gift from God. We remember that all our medical decisions at the end of life or in the midst of crisis are made with this basic tenet. God is the author of life and only God can end a life. Our decisions in regards to a loved ones medical condition are understood that each person is valued and loved by God and that our decisions are to be based on what is best for the person who is suffering and not on what is best for our conscience.

How do Easter people live? We live in complete commitment to our God and with deep love for our neighbor. Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind;" and, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). We remember who we are in Christ and how He wants us to love and treat each other.

As God's people, Easter people, we live in a way that is different from the rest of the world. We live bearing witness to Christ, forgiving one another, seeking the common good, and sharing His gifts with others.

Be strong! Be courageous! Be bold!

In Christ,
Pastor Lucero