

## **Easter Sunday Reflection March 31, 2024**

Christ is risen, let us rejoice alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

We sing Alleluia and Saint Augustine refers to us as an Easter people. Easter Sunday is a joyous day to commemorate Jesus' resurrection. Alleluia! Easter is about more than just Jesus. It concerns us. The New Life of the Lord has been given to us. "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom," is the cry we make to Him with all our life. And we are given the tremendous hope of Christianity—"Today you will be with me in paradise"—as well as the promise of faith.

The Easter people hold that the promise of eternal life was secured by the Resurrection and that the cross changed all misery and pain. But how does Easter bring good news? God began the process of removing evil, grief, and suffering from our world with the resurrection of Jesus. We cannot truly appreciate Easter's blessings and the reason we shout Alleluia on this day unless we realize Christ's resurrection and the hope he gives us. Easter is a time for celebration because we consider God has started the process of driving evil out of our universe. Consequently, Easter offers consolation in times of loss or grief as well as hope for salvation and certainty of eternity.

We observed in the gospel that a group of women transitioned from the darkness of this world to the brightness of a typical Christian life on this Easter Sunday. Such an experience leads us to ask: What is a typical Christian life? It means knowing the Lord of all glory firsthand and maintaining a conscious, living relationship with God. With Jesus in our lives, there's a new way to live. Every one of us must therefore be able to affirm, "I have personally experienced as true all that the Church and her Scriptures proclaim." I can attest to Jesus because I have had personal encounter with Him. Through my experiences and prayers, I have encountered Him. I now see him as real and alive, and He is transforming my life. I've met the Lord, not just heard about Him. I am familiar with Him; I am not only aware of Him. And so I can witness him. Christ has risen! Alleluia! Let's be glad and rejoice.