



## *Easter Message*

**Rejoice, heavenly Powers! Sing, choirs of Angels  
Exult, all Creation/ around God's throne! Jesus  
Christ, our King, is Risen! Rejoice, O earth, in  
shining splendor, Glory fills you! Darkness  
vanishes forever! Rejoice, O Mother Church!  
Exult in Glory! The Risen Shines upon you! Let  
this place/ resound with Joy, echoing/ the mighty  
song /of all God's People!**

This is the proclamation made, announcing the Holy and Great Easter Night. It is a call to be Joyful as we behold and accept God's Greatest Miracle; That Moment when He rained down Graces of New Life upon the tomb and His Son rose from the dead.

Easter Festivities always begin with the "Miracle of Light;" Light illumining the darkness of Sin. On that Holy Night, Christians enter the Holy Place with Light progressively growing brighter and brighter from a single Easter Candle.

The same reality is then repeated in the proclaimed Readings of the Night; Readings from the Old Testament beginning in the Genesis with the Creation to the Time of Fulfillment in the New Testament;

We the disciples of Christ, listen and reflect on the Whole of Our Salvation History as we visualized it pass, as it were on a Screen, from Creation to Redemption: Adam, Abraham, Moses, the Prophets; the Old Covenant to the New and Eternal Covenant sealed by the blood of Christ Jesus.

On this Holy Day, God's Plan to Save us reached its Peak in its fulfillment.

This should a cause of Great Joy! As we hear yet again the words of the Angel to the women; *“Why do you seek the Living One among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised.”*

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See after the tragic evening of Good Friday, when *“the power of darkness,”* seemed to have prevailed over the One who is “the Light of the World.” And while all his friends deserted Him and all seemed hopeless, Jesus remained determined to fulfill the Will of His Father.

He had to fulfill all that the Scriptures had foretold about Him. He was the New Adam who unlike the first remained perfectly obedient to the Will of the Father leading him to die, death on the Cross; So that God's Love for us may be fully revealed through Him.

On Good Friday, we heard those liberating words; **“It is Finished,”** and with them Jesus announced the completion of his Mission.

But how did his disciples react to Hour of Christ?

They had heard Jesus teaching about rising from the dead, but as the scripture says, they did not understand.

They were scared, hidden behind locked doors! They were afraid that they could be the next.

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+ You can imagine then/ how they felt, when Mary Magdalene came with the news *“they have taken the Lord from the tomb and we do not know where they have laid him.”*

This meant the end of all hope Anxiety propelled Peter and John to the tomb! A Race without Faith, to find out whether/ what the women had reported was true; They had removed the body.

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But what they saw; the Empty tomb, the shroud and the napkins; transformed them; and John the evangelist wrote; they “saw and believed.”

The pilgrim journey of Faith from moments when anxiety and doubts enslaved by Fear was Illumined by the Spirit of God into Joy beyond any human fathoming.

The Events of the Day were to become even more dramatic!

That evening with the doors still closed, for the fear of the Jews, Jesus appeared to them, “Peace to you.” He greeted them.

The disciples were breathless! What an amazing turn of events! They were in the Presence of the Risen Lord, but thought they were seeing A Ghost!

“Why are you so agitated, the Risen Lord asked them, why are your hearts doubtful?– See my hands and feet that it is I Myself! Touch me and see for yourself; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have!”

We can almost/ see the Joy /that victory brings/ shining on the Faces of the Disciples. You can almost hear them explode with the exclamation of today's Responsorial Psalm;

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!”

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We should also come to this great Joy too /on this Holy Night, because Christ's Victory is our Victory. And he tells us in John 14:19 *“I live and you will live also.”*

Our Life is grounded in Christ Jesus /// who has breathed on us the breath of immortality. *“Receive the Holy Spirit;”*

St. Paul in the verses we read today explains to us /// how,

In baptism we have been “grafted” unto Christ Jesus! In baptism, through Christ, **we share in the life of God.**

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In the early Church Bishops or Priests after the Homily would cry out to the Faithful “*Conversi ad Dominum Deum Patrem Omni/po/ten/tem;*” *“Let's turn now towards the Lord God, and Almighty Father.”*

Let us now ///turn towards the Risen Lord,/// in the Renewal of Our Baptismal Promises. Let us turn to Him who reveals himself to us, in the Breaking of Bread.

May the Risen Lord Bless You with His Gift of Peace! **AMEN.**