

“He Lives! Alleluia!”

Rev. Erika Martinez-Flores
John 20:1-18
April 9, 2023. Easter Sunday
Westby UMC & Viroqua UMC

The resurrection experience is the quintessential Christian experience. Our faith is empty, without foundation or solid content, if we have not been impacted by the resurrection of Jesus. The truth of the resurrection is the root of the Christian faith and of God's saving plan.

Easter is the great step towards life. A step that needs to be meditated and prayed for at length so that we can assimilate such an immense gift: God has given us Life and Life forever.

Resurrection is aspiring to the gifts from above, taking flight, raising our morale, turning our backs on everything base, breathing the pure air of the Spirit that blows in all directions. Resurrection is looking with new eyes, loving with an evangelical heart; it is to believe, despite the failures and suffering, it is to open a new canine of hope and light, in the midst of the mist that produces the pain for those who have left, or the bewilderment in the face of a future full of questions.

The disciples were stunned, locked up, perhaps too crushed by the Master's death... But at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene has an overwhelming experience next to the empty tomb: What has happened to Jesus? she runs to communicate it: "They have taken the body of the Master... and Peter and John run... and when John arrived, he tells us the Gospel that he saw and believed.

What did John see to believe? What did he experience? What was Mary Magdalene looking for when she went to the tomb at dawn? The first disciples were experiencing that the risen Jesus is not found among the dead. At his side the spirit is renewed, and hope grows. That is why the end of the children of God is not death or the blind grave,

but a dawn full of light, of resurrection, in communion with God and with all those who have passed from death to life.

In order to live this Easter season, which we have just inaugurated, with depth and intensity, we must welcome the gift of Light that Jesus gives us, and be able to be, individually and as a community, light in the midst of the darkness and pain that has caused us. left and, is leaving us, this pandemic, or, any other suffering of our fellow men... brothers.

This light is like an outburst of enthusiasm and fullness, but it is also a commitment to honesty that illuminates our interior and challenges us to live as children of the Light. Because believing in the resurrection has practical consequences, it encourages people to speak out in favor of all that is human dignity. Assuming the Christian Easter is proposing to do good, like Jesus, and joining the group of witnesses, so that the impetus of the Gospel unfolds everywhere.

Thus, with the resurrection, experienced and projected from the new light, everything is transformed, illusions sprout again and the journey of life acquires a new meaning, an incalculable, eternal value.

With the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus, we have the duty to be a lively, enthusiastic community. As witnesses of his Glory, let us spread this spirit among the neighbors. May the grace and love of God be with us Hallelujah! Our Lord has risen! Hallelujah!