

The Lord is Risen! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!!!

The early Christians used to greet each other in this manner celebrating the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The resurrection is the lynchpin of the Christian faith. If there is no resurrection then there is no faith. The resurrection of Jesus on the third day shows the victory of Jesus over sin, death, over Satan and all principalities and powers, over evil and over all broken relationships. We meditated on these topics on Good Friday. Today we celebrate the resurrection with the universal church around the world because it has given us a new hope. The resurrection of Jesus shows that the history of the world will be governed according to God's purpose.

The death of Jesus on Good Friday seemed to be the final nail on the Messiah. The disciples were afraid and they had locked themselves up in a room for fear that they too would be destroyed by the Romans. In spite of Jesus teaching them repeatedly that the Son of Man had to suffer and die and rise again on the third day, the death on the cross seemed irreversible. They had witnessed the crucifixion and did not see any signs of hope. They were all depressed and did not know what the future held for them. What happened on Easter morning has radically altered human history ever since.

Mary was the first one who goes to the tomb early in the morning and sees that the stone had been removed from the entrance of the tomb. She runs back to Peter and tells them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have put him'. Peter and John run to the tomb and they go inside and see the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place separate from the linen. John says about himself that he saw and believed. After this the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Mary Magdalene on the other hand stood outside the tomb crying, and as she looked into the tomb she saw two angels. The angels ask her why she was crying and she replies saying, "They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have put him." Mary was still mourning the death of Jesus as her heart was heavy and was blurred to all that was happening around her.

Meanwhile, Jesus comes next to her and says, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Mary is still oblivious to her surroundings and thinks it is the gardener who is speaking to her. Therefore she says to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her 'Mary'. She turned toward him and cried out, 'Rabboni' which means 'my teacher'. Mary recognises Jesus as soon as he addressed her by name. Jesus tells her to go to the other disciples and tell them about the resurrection. Mary runs back to the disciples with the good news and says, "I have seen the Lord." Mary is the first apostle who takes the good news to others.

The resurrection of Jesus reassures us of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. Christ has paid the price for our sins. He died on the cross and rose again on the third day to show that sin and death have been defeated. All the powers of darkness put together could not keep Jesus down. Satan is a defeated foe and we have the victory over him through his resurrection. May we truly rejoice in the resurrection and appropriate the power that is made available to us through the indwelling Holy Spirit this Easter.