

## ***We believe in Jesus' Resurrection which changes the past, present and future.***

Jesus' resurrection is the most important event in world history. It changes people with faith. It is so great it touches the past, present, and future. First, we remember the past. Jesus rose from the dead. We believe this based on the witness of Jesus' earliest disciples and the oral and written revelation the Holy Spirit communicated to the church. St. Paul tells us if Jesus has not been raised, our preaching is void of content and our faith is empty too. We are false witnesses, liars, of all people most to be pitied. But if Christ is risen, we can have joy, peace, and meaning in our lives.

Besides the past hope, we Christians have a future hope. We like Christ, will be raised from the dead to live the fullness of everlasting life. We might find it easier to accept and believe in Christ's resurrection than our own future resurrection. Christ is the divine Son of the Father. God became man to work for our salvation. It is natural he should be resurrected. We are only human, mortal, we are imperfect, and sometimes we sin. Faith in Christ's resurrection leads us to faith in our own resurrection. Our Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection is without meaning if we do not have our own hope for bodily resurrection after we die. Jesus has destroyed death by overcoming sin. In death we are not annihilated, nor do we disintegrate. We transition to a higher existence as Jesus did. Our well-founded faith and hope is that death leads to our future resurrection.

Third, Christians have resurrection hope for the present. We have the promise of a new life of love, joy, and peace, of heaven on earth. Heaven begins now in this life. If we want to live with Christ in the happiness of eternity, we must live with him now the way he lived on earth. Jesus taught people love. First love the Lord your God with all your mind, strength, and heart. Then from the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in us, you love your neighbour as you love yourself. Love everyone, even enemies. Love as Jesus loved sacrificially, caring, giving, to serve God and our brothers and sisters in love, in our words and actions.

Jesus' Easter resurrection is past, present, and future. Receiving the risen Lord in the Holy Eucharist, we are strengthened in our faith in Christ's resurrection in the past, to live the loving life of Christ in the present where we receive a token, a downpayment of our own resurrection life in the future forever in heaven.

A happy and blessed Easter to all of you and your families. The Lord is risen! He is risen, indeed, Hallelujah!

*Fr. Edwin Kulling*

