

Easter, 2025

Reflection

The season of Easter is upon us, but how do we celebrate Easter when so much is so dark and filled with despair? Wars and conflicts continue and even worsen in some places: Palestine, Sudan, Ukraine, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, and more. Nuclear weapons are upgraded. Occupations and military coups oppress people. Migrants are deemed deportable despite being innocent of any crime. Poverty, homelessness, hunger, and sickness abound. Earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and fires destroy habitats for humans and all living creatures. Ruthless governments break laws, deny freedoms, fire highly qualified and dedicated workers, and withhold humanitarian aid at home and abroad. It goes on and on.

But is any of this new? Jesus lived in an occupied land where the masses struggled to survive against their own poverty, sickness, disability, sexism, natural disasters, and, certainly their own ruthless government and religious leaders.

Yet—or because of all these things—Easter came. And it is because of that, we, too, can celebrate. Jesus knows, understands, and experienced the trials that we continue to endure, and he addressed them with his love, mercy, gifts of healing, preaching, and teaching, as well as his refusal to be silent, speaking truth to power, and accepting the consequences that led to his false arrest, torture, and execution.

And then came Easter, Jesus's resurrection, his triumph over death, light overcoming darkness, hope conquering despair. Yes, we can rejoice with him. We can celebrate Easter, and we can then carry on his work, doing whatever we can to extend our own love, mercy, consoling words *and* courageous words of truth to power. And we can follow his example also with actions that bring light into the darkness, joy where there is sorrow, and hope where there is despair.

Happy, Holy Easter! He lives and we all live in Him!!

Prayer: "To Have Hope" by Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo (Scalabrians) in *Prayer without Borders* from Catholic Relief Services

To have hope is to believe that history continues open to the dream of God and to human creativity.

To have hope is to continue affirming that it is possible to dream a different world, without hunger, without injustice, without discrimination.

To have hope is to be a courier of God and courier of men and women of good will, tearing walls, destroying borders, building bridges.

To have hope is to believe in the revolutionary potential of faith, is to leave the door open so that the Spirit can enter and make all things anew.

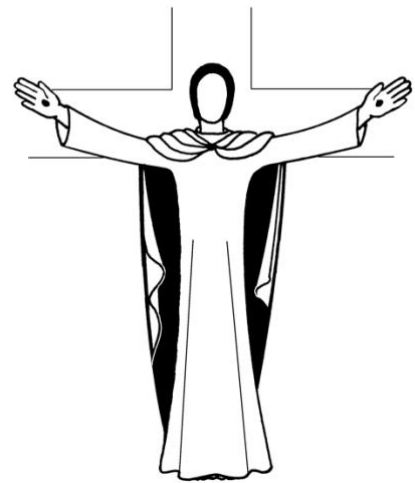
To have hope is to believe that life wins over death.

To have hope is to begin again as many times as necessary.

To have hope is to believe that hope is not the last thing that dies.

To have hope is to believe that hope cannot die, that hope no longer dies.

To have hope is to live.



Suggested Actions

- ❖ Celebrate Easter, not just for one day, but for one season—or longer. Always remember we have a loving, merciful Savior who does not abandon us, even when we doubt or fear.
- ❖ Be an Easter person for others. Visit, listen, share a positive experience or story. Together: Sit out in nature. Take a walk. Play a game. Do a puzzle. Make music. Read something fun or funny. Find something you enjoy and do it.
- ❖ Be informed about what's happening across the country, the Church, and the world, so you can take knowledgeable positions on the issues of the day and share them with others.
- ❖ Join with others at a rally, march, or vigil for a better world. Feel the mutual support. Be emboldened to do more to stand up, speak out, and take action for victims of violence and injustice of all kinds.
- ❖ Visit the Pax Christi websites for more ways to pray, study, and act: www.paxchristinys.org and www.nypaxchristi.org.
- ❖ Share this reflection with others.