

Easter, 2026

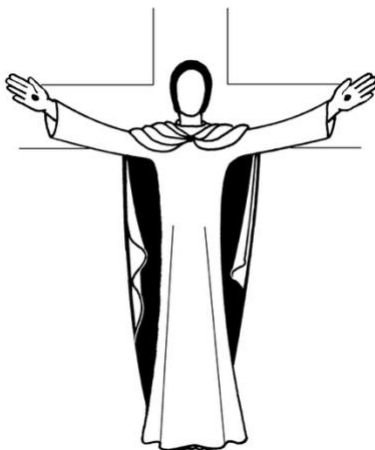
Reflection

My paternal grandfather was a pasty man; he owned a bakery in Brooklyn, NY, and he made all the traditional Italian holiday pastries that contributed to the specialness of each feast. My grandfather died the year before I was born, but my father carried on the baking as an avocation. Even though I don't do the baking, I do insist on buying those same pastries for each holiday. It just isn't Christmas for me without Struffoli (honey balls). It isn't St. Joseph's Day without Zeppoli di San'Giuseppe. And it isn't Easter without Pastiera (grain pie). But, as much as I love these desserts, it's almost sacrilege to have them off-season.

Enter an article I found about a general audience Pope Leo XIV gave last November 5th—yes, November—in St Peter's Square titled, "How can we say that it is Easter every day?" His point: *It is* Easter every day. Uh oh! Does this mean I shouldn't be so disapproving when I see my favorite holiday treats in pastry stores at the "wrong" time of year? Here is some of what Pope Leo presented to support his claim:

The Church teaches us to make a living remembrance of the Resurrection every year on Easter Sunday and *every day* (emphasis added) in the Eucharistic celebration, during which the promise of the risen Lord is most fully realized: "Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28:20).

.... Faced with our fragile humanity, the Paschal proclamation becomes care and healing, nourishing hope in the face of the frightening challenges with which life presents us *every day* (emphasis added) on a personal and global level....



Easter does not eliminate the cross, but defeats it in the miraculous duel that changed our human history. Even our time, marked by so many crosses, invokes the dawn of Paschal hope. Christ's Resurrection is not an idea, a theory, but the Event that is the foundation of faith. He, the Risen One, through the Holy Spirit, continues to remind us of this, so that we can be His witnesses even where human history does not see light on the horizon. Paschal hope does not disappoint. To believe truly in the Pasch through our *daily* (emphasis added) journey means revolutionizing our lives, being transformed in order to transform the world with the gentle and courageous power of Christian hope.

<https://zenit.org/2025/11/05/how-is-every-day-easter-pope-leo-xiv-explains-it-this-way/>

Well, clearly, Pope Leo was not talking about when to eat pastiera, but he is reminding us that Easter is not limited to one day of the year or even one seven-week season. Easter, the gift of Hope, is ours every day. And it is ours to extend that hope to a world in desperate need of it.

Happy Easter now and always!

Prayer from *WomanWord*: “Mary, Wife of Cleopas” by Miriam Therese Winter

We praise You, O Resurrected Hope,
for exceeding our expectations,
for breaking to bits the narrow scope of our finite comprehension.
Who could have guessed You would walk with us on our journey into meaning,
instead of sending us out on our own to find the promised land.
May we never lose sight of the empty tomb that symbolizes resurrection,
never forget that only the dead are capable of rising.
Take the bread of our limited experience and break it to our advantage,
revealing a vision of healing and hope for all who come home to God.
For this we pray, this day and always.
Amen.

Suggested Actions

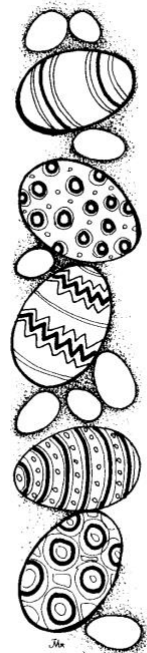
Share this reflection with others.

Pray the prayer above often in observance of our year-long Easter.

Strive to be hopeful despite the horrors that may surround us. Find hope:

- in family and friends with whom you may celebrate the good things in life: births, birthdays, first sacraments, special achievements like graduations and promotions, holidays, etc.;
- in nature as Spring bursts forth in new life among plants and animals;
- in colleagues with whom you may march for peace, rally for justice, vigil for change from conflict to reconciliation;
- in groups like Pax Christi here at home; the Parents Circle and Combatants for Peace in Palestine and Israel; the Emergency Response Rooms in Sudan; peace activists in Russia, Ukraine, and Iran; Nihon Hidankyo in Japan; and so many, many more around the world;
- Read books on hope like Jane Goodall’s *The Book of Hope*, and others.

Share your hope with others.



- Tell them, or remind them of the many, many people doing good works across the country and the globe, sometimes in the face of violent opposition.
- If they are people of faith, remind them of the love and mercy of God.
- If they are Christian, read the Good News of the Gospels together. Reflect. Discuss.

Enjoy a piece of pastiera

—or whatever other treat puts a smile on your face and delights your tastebuds.

Visit the Pax Christi websites for more ways to pray, study, and act: www.paxchristinys.org, www.nypaxchristi.org, www.paxchristiusa.org; and www.paxchristi.net.