



Easter Sunday has come and gone, what a strange and memorable one it was. Many have expressed much sadness in cancelled church services and family gatherings. "It just wasn't the same" seemed to be the most common sentiment. Someone told me, "Now I have to wait a whole year until I can celebrate the greatest day of our faith."

Easter may indeed have passed, but the Hope of the Resurrection is alive and fresh within each and every one of us, each and every day of the year.

If Easter is only a day on a calendar, the celebration replaces the event because Jesus rose from the dead. His spirit lives in you and me.

Many of us may be tempted to simply put it behind us and move on. With the scope of suffering around the world, and predictions that the worst is yet to come, it would be easy to set aside Easter joy and hope. But Jesus's resurrection is not reserved for a single Sunday.

We need to remember this, especially now in this historic and terrible pandemic. The truth of the resurrection has not changed; even in this day of uncertainty and fear, our hope in Jesus Christ is sure and certain, because He is Risen!

Yes, we continue to weep with those who weep, mourn and lament with the world's current plight, but we must not give up on the glorious joy and hope of the resurrection. Our tears may be flowing, but our hearts are full of hope because we believe in God who proved that sickness and death do not have the final word.

Easter and this pandemic both remind us of our mortality, that life is fragile, precious, and brief.

As we move well into the second month of this COVID-19 global catastrophe, there are many hopeful signs. In many ways we are beginning to do the things we should be doing all along. Spending more time with family, enjoying cooking and sharing meals together, taking walks, checking up on one another, and looking for ways to volunteer ones abilities, talents, etc.

Perhaps some very significant news is the enormous increase in spiritual matters. Many are predicting a historic spiritual revival. A few recent polls are showing that more people in America are praying since WWII . Word searches on matters of faith and God have skyrocketed, as are searches for topics like the 'afterlife'.

Over 65% of people polled believe this pandemic is a "wake up call". More people are beginning to realize that all the systems they've put their trust in have failed them. All our golden idols are crumbling, causing us to reevaluate our life's priorities and relationships with others, and with God. Many are finally realizing "We Need God".

We are not through this calamity yet, but it will pass, and will hopefully leave this world a bit more concerned for one another, a bit kinder and more compassionate, and perhaps a bit more willing to seek and follow Him, who created the heavens and the earth, knows all things, holds all things in His hand, and loves all of His people. That would change our world.

This Sunday will be the 6th week we have not held a public service, and it could be another 6 weeks before we are able to. Not having an Easter Sunday service is also difficult for the finances of the church. Usually the Easter offerings amount to about two months of regular contributions. I'd like to thank every one of you who have been able to remember the church in this time and have sent in your offerings. We are very grateful.

As I've already informed you, I have applied for the federal stimulus assistance program which may help the church with some bills. We do not know if and when any funds would be available. In the meantime, if you can, please help in any way possible. As

always, there is plenty of yard work which will be nice to get done. Again, thank you all for your generosity in this difficult time.

Now let us remember and never forget, Easter is not simply a day to celebrate or commemorate, but rather it is our daily living Hope and our eternal Joy! Two things we all could use more of. He is Risen, alleluia!

May He lift you and keep you in His perfect peace,

Fr. Peter