

EASTER DAY 2024

SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

Introduction

The Resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian Faith. It is the greatest of the miracles, for it proves that Jesus is God. That is why St. Paul writes: “If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your Faith is in vain” (I Cor. 15:14). The central message of the Apostles is found in Romans 10:9 – “Jesus is Lord, He is risen”.

Christ's Resurrection is the guarantee of our own resurrection. Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies...” (John 11:25-26).

Christ's Resurrection gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows and tears. It reminds us that life is worth living. It also gives us strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears.

Christ's Resurrection gives meaning to our prayers: It supports our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus in and around us, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament and in Heaven, hearing our prayers, and so gives meaning to our personal as well as our communal prayers.

Proofs of Christ Resurrection

1. Jesus himself testified to his Resurrection from the dead, giving it as a sign of his divinity. (Mark 8:31; Matthew 17:22; Luke 9:22). Tear down this temple and in three days I will build it again” (John. 2: 19).
2. The tomb was empty on Easter Sunday (Luke 24:3). Although the guards claimed (Matthew 28:13), that the disciples of Jesus had stolen the body, every sensible Jew knew that it was impossible for the terrified disciples of Jesus to steal the body of Jesus from a tomb guarded by an armed, 16-member Roman Guard detachment.
3. The initial disbelief of Jesus' own disciples in Jesus' Resurrection, in spite of His repeated apparitions, serves as a strong proof of his Resurrection. Their initial disbelief explains why the Apostles started preaching the Risen Christ only after receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.
4. The transformation of Jesus' disciples: Christ's Resurrection and the anointing of the Holy Spirit transformed men who were hopeless and fearful after the crucifixion (Luke 24:21, John 20:19), into men who now were confident and bold witnesses to the Resurrection (Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:2) powerfully preaching the Risen Lord.

5. Neither the Jews nor the Romans could disprove Christ's Resurrection by presenting the dead body of Jesus.
6. The Apostles and early Christians would not have fearlessly preached Christ as Savior and faced martyrdom if they were not absolutely sure of His Resurrection.
7. The Apostle Paul's conversion from a persecutor of Christians to a zealous preacher of Jesus supports the truth of Christ's Resurrection (Galatians 1:11-17, Acts 9:1, Acts 9:24-25, Acts 26:15-18).
8. The sheer existence of a thriving, empire-conquering early Christian Church, bravely facing and surviving three centuries of persecution, supports the truth of the Resurrection claim.
9. The New Testament witnesses do not bear the stamp of dupes or deceivers. The Apostles and the early Christians were absolutely sure about the Resurrection of Jesus.

The Effects of Christ Resurrection

1. The conviction of the real presence of the Risen Lord with us and within us and all around us, enables us to lead disciplined Christian lives. It will help us to control our thoughts, desires, words, behavior and actions.
2. It inspires us to honor our bodies, keeping them holy, pure and free from evil habits and addictions. Our conviction that the loving presence of the Risen Lord dwells in our neighbors and in all those we encounter, should encourage us to respect them and to render them loving, humble and selfless service.
3. It enables us to become transparent Christians, radiating the Risen Lord around us in the form of selfless and sacrificial agape love, mercy, compassion and a spirit of humble service. Each time we try to practice Christian charity, mercy and forgiveness and each time we fight against temptations, we share in the Resurrection of Jesus. (L/22)

Conclusion

Let us live the lives of Resurrection people: We are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits, dangerous addictions, despair, discouragement or doubts. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the living presence of the Risen Lord Who loves us in all the events of our lives and amid the boredom, suffering, pain and tensions of our day-to-day life

Happy Easter to you all.

Yours in Christ,

The Minister-In-Charge

The Order of Service

1. Choir Procession - ASCSHC 19 (*Hermas*)
2. Priest's Procession - Psalm 98
3. Introit - ASCSHC 187 (*Old German Melody*)

- Pre-Communion
4. Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 25:6-9
5. Easter Anthem -
6. The Epistle - 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
7. Gradual Hymn - ASCSHC 25 (*Maccabeus*)
8. The Gospel - John 20:1-18
9. Credo -
10. Hymn - *Amazing Grace*
(*Collection for indigent students*)
11. Hymn - *'In Christ Alone'* (by *K. Getty & S. Townend*)
12. Sermon
13. Choir - *The Song of Victory* (by *H. Mason*)
14. Offertory Hymn - *A & M 602 (Easter Song)*

- Communion
15. Hymns - ASCSHC 57, 114, 140, 91,
- A&M 128, 135, 140
- Ablution (ASCSHC 12)

- Post Communion
16. Prayers
17. Gloria in Excelsis
18. Thanksgiving
19. Benediction
20. Announcements
21. Choir - *'Hallelujah'* (by *G. F Handel*)
22. Withdrawal Hymn - *A & M 131 (Maidstone)*

1. The Choir Procession: ASCSHC 19 (*Hermas*)

1. “Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say:
Hell to-day is vanquished; heaven is won to-day!
Lo! the Dead is living, God for evermore!
Him, their true Creator, all His works adore!

*“Welcome, happy morning” age to age shall say
Hell today is vanquished; heaven is won today.*

2. Earth with joy confesses, clothing her for spring,
All good gifts returned with her returning King;
Bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough,
Speak His sorrows ended, hail His triumph now.

“Welcome, happy morning” age to age shall say

3. Months in due succession, days of lengthening light,
Hours and passing moments, praise Thee in their flight;
Brightness of the morning, sky, and fields, and sea,
Vanquisher of darkness, bring their praise to Thee.

“Welcome, happy morning” age to age shall say

4. Maker and Redeemer, life and health of all,
Thou from heaven beholding human nature’s fall;
Of the Father’s Godhead, true and only Son,
Manhood to deliver, manhood didst put on.

“Welcome, happy morning” age to age shall say

5. Loose the hearts long prisoned, bound with Satan’s chain;
All that now is fallen raise to life again;
Show Thy face in brightness, bid the nations see;
Bring again our daylight; day returns with Thee.

*“Welcome, happy morning” age to age shall say
Hell today is vanquished; heaven is won today.*

2. **The Priests' Procession: Psalm 98**

1. O sing unto the Lord a / new song: for he hath / done / marvelous / things.
2. With his own right hand and with his / holy / arm: hath he / gotten him/self the / victory.
3. The Lord declared / his sal/vation: his righteousness hath he openly / shewed in the / sight of the / heathen.
4. He hath remembered his mercy and truth, toward the / house of / Israel: and all the ends of the world have seen the sal/vation of /our/ God.
5. Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord / all ye / lands: sing re/joyce and / give / thanks.
6. Praise the Lord up/on the / harp: sing to the / harp with a / psalm of / thanksgiving.
7. With trumpets / also and / shawms: O shew yourselves joyful be/fore the / Lord the / King.
8. Let the sea make a noise, and all that / therein / is: the round world and / they that / dwell there/in
9. Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together be/fore the / Lord: for he is / come to / judge the / earth.
10. With righteousness shall he / judge the / world: and the / people / with / equity.

3 **Introit: ASCSHC 187** (*Old German Melody*)

1. Christ the Lord is risen!
Now is the hour of darkness past;
Christ hath assumed His reigning power.
Behold the great accuser cast
Down from the skies, to rise no more:
Alleluia, alleluia.

2. Christ the Lord is risen!
‘Twas by Thy blood, immortal Lamb,
Thine armies trod the tempter down;
‘Twas by Thy word and powerful name
They gained the battle and renown:
Alleluia, alleluia.
3. Christ the Lord is risen!
Rejoice, ye heavens! let every star
Shine with new glories round the sky!
Saints, while ye sing the heavenly war,
Raise your Redeemer’s name on high!
Alleluia, alleluia.

Pre-Communion

4. Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 25:6 - 9

6. And in this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees.
7. And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.
8. He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken.
9. And it will be said in that day: “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”

5. Easter Anthem

1. *f* Christ our passover is / sacrificed / for us: therefore /
let us / keep the / feast;
2. Not with the old leaven, nor the leaven of / malice and
/ wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of
sin / ceri / ty and / truth.
3. Christ being raised from the dead / dieth no / more:
death hath no / more do / minion / over him.
4. *p* For in that he died, he died unto / sin / once: but in that
he liveth, he / liveth / unto / God.
5. *p* Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead
indeed / unto / sin: but alive unto God through / Jesus
/ Christ our / Lord.
6. *f* Christ is / risen from the / dead: and become the /
first-fruits of / them that / slept.
7. For since by / man came / death: by man came also
the resur / rection / of the / dead.
8. *ff* For as in Adam / all / die: even so in Christ shall /
all be / made a / live.

6. The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

12. Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised
from the dead, how do some among you say that there
is no resurrection of the dead?
13. But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ
is not risen.
14. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty
and your faith is also empty.
15. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God,
because we have testified of God that He raised up
Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead
do not rise.

16. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.
17. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!
18. Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
19. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.
20. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

7. The Gradual Hymn: ASCSHC 25 (*Maccabaeus*)

1. Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
 Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won;
 Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
 Kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay:
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
 Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.*
2. Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
 Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
 Let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
 For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
3. No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of Life;
 Life is nought without Thee: aid us in our strife;
 Make us more than conquerors, through Thy
 deathless love;
 Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,

8. The Gospel: St. John 20:1-18

1. Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.
2. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”
3. Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.
4. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.
5. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.
6. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there,
7. And the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.
8. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.
9. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.
10. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.
11. But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.
12. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.
13. Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

14. Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.
15. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”
16. Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher).
17. Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”
18. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

9. Credo

10. Hymn: Amazing Grace *(The Collection for Indigent Students’ Scholarship Scheme)*

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.
2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed!

3. Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.
6. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.
7. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

11. Hymn: In Christ Alone (*K. Getty & S. Townend*)

1. In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone! who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

12. The Sermon

13. The Choir: The Song of Victory (*by H. Mason*)

Raise the song of victory,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Christ is risen from the dead

Death and sin no more shall reign;
Christ has broke the tyrant's chain:
He hath set the pris'ners free—
Captive led captivity.

On the cross the saviour died,
There for us was crucified;
In the midst of Nature's gloom
Passed into the silent tomb.

He is risen again, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
He has conquered the grave,
He is mighty to save—
A prince and a Saviour forever!
Sing the praise of the mighty redeemer,
He has conquered the grave,
He is mighty to save—
A prince and a Saviour forever!

14. Offertory Hymn: A&M 602 (Easter Song)

1. Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky;
Heaven thunders forth its victor-cry: (Alleluia!)
The glad earth shouts her triumph high,
And groaning hell makes wild reply: (Alleluia!)
2. While he, the King, the mighty King,
Despoiling death of all its sting,
And trampling down the powers of night,
Brings forth his ransomed saints to light.
3. His tomb of late the threefold guard
Of watch and stone and seal had barred;
But now, in pomp and triumph high,
He comes from death to victory.

4. The pains of hell are loosed at last,
The days of mourning now are past;
An angel robed in light hath said,
'The Lord is risen from the dead.'

9. That Eastertide with joy was bright,
The sun shone out with fairer light,
When, to their longing eyes restored,
The glad apostles saw their Lord.

10. O Lord of all, with us abide
In this our joyful Eastertide;
From every weapon death can wield
Thine own redeemed for ever shield.

11. All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Communion Hymns

- 15. Hymns - ASCSHC 57, 114, 140, 91, A&M 128, 135, 140
Ablution (ASCSHC 12)**

ASCSHC 57: (*Arizona*)

1. I know that my Redeemer lives
What joy the blest assurance gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my everlasting Head.

2. He lives, triumphant from the grave;
He lives, eternally to save;
He lives, all glorious in the sky;
He lives, exalted there on high.

3. He lives, my kind, wise, constant Friend;
Who still will keep me to the end;
He lives, and since He lives I'll sing,
Jesus, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
4. He lives, to bless me with His love;
He lives; to plead for me above
He lives, my hungry soul to feed
He lives, to help in time of need.
5. He lives, and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives, my mansion to prepare;
He lives, to lead me safely there.
6. He lives, all glory to His name
He lives, my Saviour, still the same;
What joy the blest assurance gives,
I know that my Redeemer lives!

ASCSHC 114: (*Near the Cross*)

1. Jesus, keep me near the Cross;
There a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain:

In the Cross, in the Cross,

Be my glory ever;

Till my raptured-soul shall find

Rest beyond the river.

2. Near the Cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning star
Shed its beams around me.

Refrain:

3. Near the Cross: O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day,
With its shadow o'er me,

Refrain:

4. Near the Cross I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand,
Just beyond the river.

Refrain:

ASC SHC 140 : (*Old Rugged Cross*)

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross;
The emblem of suffering and shame,
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best,
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down,
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

2. Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God, left His glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,

3. In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,

4. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home faraway,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,

ASCSHC 91: (*Christ Arose*)

1. Low in the grave He lay,
Jesus, my Saviour
Waiting the coming day,
Jesus, my Lord.

*Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives for ever with His Saints to reign:
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

2. Vainly they watch His bed,
Jesus, my Saviour;
Vainly they seal the dead,
Jesus, my Lord.

Up from the grave He arose,

3. Death cannot keep his prey,
Jesus, my Saviour;
He tore the bars away,
Jesus, my Lord.

Up from the grave He arose,

A&M 128: (*St. Fulbert*)

1. *f* Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.
2. For Judah's Lion bursts his chains,
Crushing the serpent's head;
And cries aloud through death's domains
To wake the imprisoned dead.
3. Devouring depths of hell their prey—
At his command restore;
His ransomed hosts pursue their way
Where Jesus goes before.
4. Triumphant in his glory now
To him all power is given;
To him in one communion bow
All saints in earth and heaven.

5. *mf* While we his soldiers praise our King,
His mercy we implore,
Within his palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.

6. *f* All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
While endless ages run. Alleluia! Amen.

A&M 135

1. Alleluia! Alleluia!! Alleluia!!!
The strife is o'er, the battle done;
The victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!

2. The pow'rs of death have done their worst,
But Christ their legions hath dispersed:
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!

3. The three sad days have quickly sped;
He rises glorious from the dead:
All glory to our risen head!
Alleluia!

4. He closed the yawning gates of hell;
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell:
Let hymns of praise his triumphs tell.
Alleluia!

5. Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
From death's dread sting thy servants free,
That we may live and sing to thee,
Alleluia!

A&M 140

1. Jesus lives! thy terrors now
Can no more, O death appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
Thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia!
2. Jesus lives! henceforth is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm our trembling breath,
When we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia!
3. Jesus lives! for us he died;
Then, alone to Jesus living,
Pure in heart may we abide,
Glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia!
4. Jesus lives! our hearts know well
Naught from us his love shall sever;
Life nor death, nor powers of hell
Tear us from His keeping ever.
Alleluia!
5. Jesus lives! to him the throne
Over all the world is given:
May we go where He is gone,
Rest and reign with Him in heaven.
Alleluia!

ASCSHC 12 (*Ablution*)

1. Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast;
Body of Christ, be Thou my saving guest;
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in Thy tide,
Wash me with water flowing from Thy side.
2. Strength and protection may Thy Passion be;
O Blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;
Deep in Thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me;
So shall I never, never part from Thee.
3. Guard and defend me from the foe malign
In death's dread moments make me only Thine;
Call me, and bid me come to Thee on high,
When I may praise Thee with Thy saints for aye.

Post Communion

16. **Prayers**
17. **Gloria in Excelsis**
18. **Thanksgiving**
19. **Benediction**
20. **Announcements**
21. **Choir: 'Hallelujah'** (*by G. F Handel*)

22. Withdrawal Hymn: A&M 131 (*Maidstone*)

1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day!
Christians, haste your vows to pay;
Offer ye your praises meet
At the Paschal Victim's feet.
For the sheep the Lamb hath bled,
Sinless in the sinner's stead:
Christ is risen!' to-day we cry;
Now he lives no more to die.

2. Christ, the Victim undefiled,
Man to God hath reconciled;
Whilst in strange and awful strife
Met together death and life,
Christians, on this happy day
Haste with joy your vows to pay:
'Christ is risen!' to-day we cry;
Now he lives no more to die.

3. Christ, who once for sinners bled,
Now the First-born from the dead,
Throned in endless might and power,
Lives and reigns for evermore.
Hail, eternal hope on high!
Hail, thou King of victory!
Hail, thou Prince of Life adored!
Help and save us, gracious Lord.