

Sunday April 4th, 2021
Easter Sunday
Parishioner Reflection
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Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad,
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.
[from the Easter Exsultet]

Let our hearts be flooded with gladness this glorious Easter Day! Christ has risen! Alleluia! He has conquered sin and darkness. The light of the Resurrection fills us with hope.

Christ is our hope. So many things in this world can drag us down and cause us to become discouraged, but if we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, He has promised us His peace.

How the heavens must be rejoicing on this most glorious of days! The eternal King entered time and married time to Himself, so that we who struggle in time may enter into the glory of His eternal reign. Easter joy is ours. It can never be taken away. There are those who choose to give it up for earthly pleasures, but I pray fervently that all people will see where their true happiness lies, which is in Jesus Christ.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He walked with two of his followers on the road to Emmaus. Where is your road to Emmaus? Perhaps this question will be easier to answer if instead of Emmaus, you thought about your own street where you live. Take a walk down your street today, and feel Jesus walking at your side. Talk with Him in your heart, and listen to the wonderful things He has to say to you. He will tell you how much he loves you and cherishes you. He will tell you all about His great plans for your future and about the place He is preparing for you in heaven. As you take a walk with Jesus today, notice how everything around you is bursting with new life.

The time for sadness has passed. Death and darkness have been overcome by the Light. Our God reigns forevermore. Although we still have our crosses to bear in this life, we do not bear them alone. Christ has chosen to remain with us always. Whenever you are feeling overwhelmed by the sorrows of this life, take a walk with Jesus. Even if

you cannot go for a walk physically, you can walk with Him in your imagination. Ask Him to refresh you with Easter joy. He will not refuse you. He has given us this promise, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. [John 14:27]" He has promised. Do not be afraid to claim your prize, which is the peace only He can give.

My mother's favorite song was a Gospel song written by American songwriter C. Austin Miles called "In the Garden". Take a walk with Jesus in the garden today, and let Him fill you with Easter joy.

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses
And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am his own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known
He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.
And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am his own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known
[Lyrics to "In the Garden", first published 1912]