

Easter Sunday Homily ~ April 5, 2026.

The Egyptian pyramids are renowned as one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. Yet, at their core, they are monumental tombs - resting places for the mummified bodies of Egypt's pharaohs. Likewise, Westminster Abbey draws thousands of visitors each year, not only for its architectural grandeur but because it houses the remains of distinguished writers, philosophers, and political figures.

In Jerusalem, however, stands a different kind of tomb within the Shrine of the Holy Sepulcher. Pilgrims from across the globe come to visit it - not because it holds a body, but because it does not. At its entrance is the simple yet profound message: "*He is not here.*" This tomb is revered because Jesus Christ, once laid there, rose from the dead, just as He had foretold to His disciples.

In this act, we see the most significant miracle of His life - a triumph over death and the natural order, affirming His divine nature. It is this singular and transformative event that we joyfully commemorate each year in the celebration of Easter - the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In today's Gospel (John 20:1-9), Mary Magdalene finds the stone rolled away. Peter and the beloved disciple run to the tomb. They see, and slowly they begin to believe. Something extraordinary has happened: Jesus has risen, just as He said.

Why do we believe this?

First, Jesus Himself foretold it. He said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

Second, the tomb was truly empty - no one could produce His body.

Third, the disciples were transformed. From fearful and hiding, they became bold witnesses, ready to die for what they had seen.

Finally, the Church itself - still alive today - is a living witness to the Resurrection.

In fact, what is the relevance of Easter today and for us?

Easter is not only about what happened to Jesus long ago. It is about what is happening to us now. We are called to be the people of Resurrection.

Too often, we live as if we are still in the tomb - buried in sin, discouragement, fear, addictions, or doubt. But Easter tells us: *the stone has been rolled away*. Christ is alive, and He calls us to new life. We have to remove the stones of our heart. Let light enter in the darkest areas of our life.

If Christ is risen, then hope is stronger than despair.

If Christ is risen, then love is stronger than hatred.

If Christ is risen, then peace is stronger than war.

If Christ is risen, then life is stronger than death.

The Risen Jesus is not far away. He is with us - within us. As St. Paul reminds us, "*Seek what is above.*" Christ lives in our hearts like in a tabernacle. This means our lives, our bodies, our words, and our actions must reflect His presence.

So how do we live and celebrate Easter?

By becoming people of joy, even in difficulty.

By choosing forgiveness instead of resentment.

By showing compassion, mercy, and selfless love.

By being witnesses - quietly but clearly - that Christ is alive.

Every act of kindness, every struggle against sin, and every moment of love - these are signs that the Resurrection is alive in us.

Dear Ones,

The tomb is empty. Christ is risen, and He invites each of us to rise with Him.

Happy Easter. Alleluia!