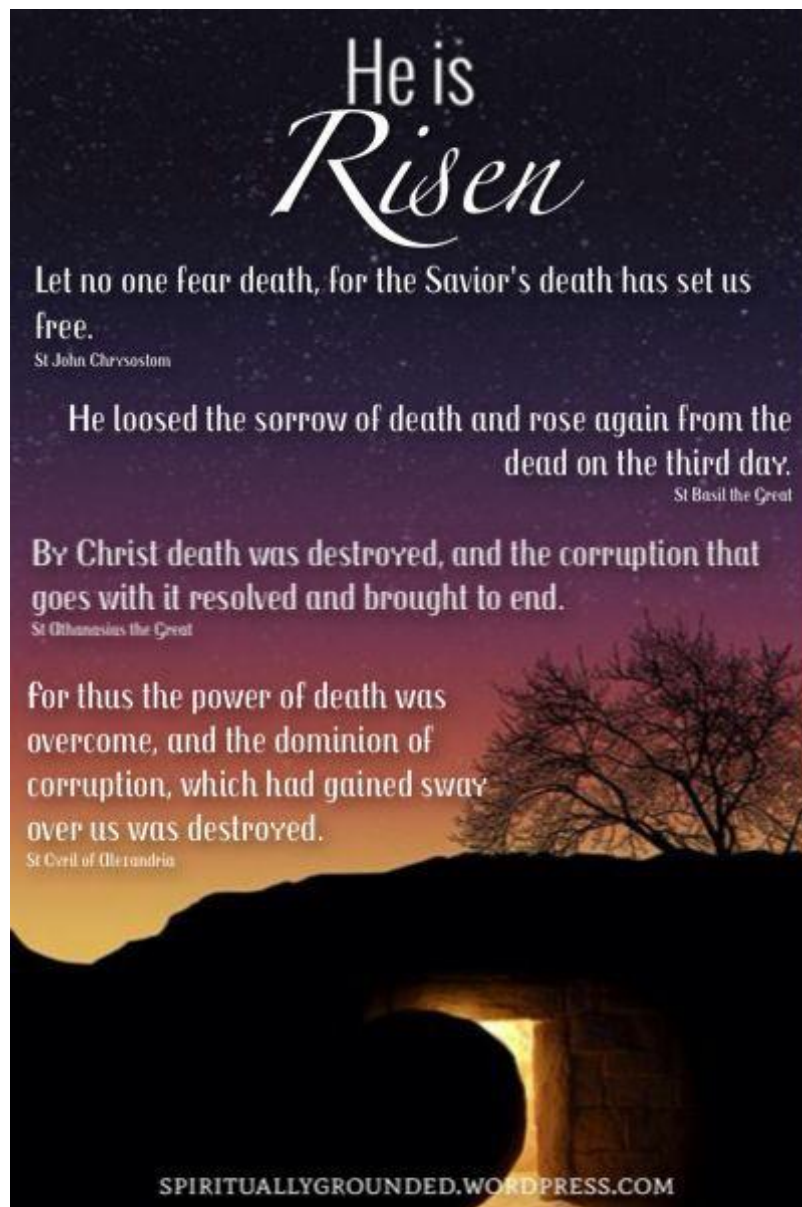


FROM FATHER JOHN: *“I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. O LORD, you brought me up from the netherworld; you preserved me from among those going down into the pit. Sing praise to the LORD, you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger lasts but a moment; a lifetime, his good will. At nightfall, weeping enters in, but with the dawn, rejoicing. Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me; O LORD, be my helper. You changed my mourning into dancing; O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.” ~ Psalm 30*

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.



He is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!!!

St. John Paul II once said to the Christian people, “Don’t abandon yourself to despair. We are the Easter people and Alleluia is our song.”

In the crucifixion, the devil thought he won a great victory over God, but in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus, Christ won the great victory. St. Gregory of Nyssa and St. Augustine, both great theologians, wrote in the 4th century that Easter was a joke that God played on the devil. So we laugh in the face of the devil as Christ Jesus wins the great victory for us.

In the ancient view, in the view of St. Augustine and St. Gregory of Nyssa, Jesus Christ, in his cross and in his resurrection, fought a great battle on our behalf. Our Lord Jesus, in his resurrection, defeated evil and vanquished the darkness which tries to enslave us. Evil is not alive and well on the planet earth. In fact, in the resurrection of Christ Jesus, our Lord and God has dealt evil a mortal blow.

The resurrection has great meaning for us especially in the time we now live in. We have a choice of whether to submit to the darkness, to submit to evil or turn to our Savior, to our Redeemer, to our Deliverer who comes to rescue us.

We need to re-capture the joy of the early Christians who knew that Easter was joke played on the devil and that our Lord Jesus Christ had dealt a death blow to all the forces of evil. We need to remember that the outcome of this battle against the pandemic is assured. The resurrection is God’s promise of the ultimate victory over any and all evil.

When I was about 5 years old, I wanted to learn how to swim. You see, my older brothers could swim, and because they could swim, my parents let them go anywhere they wanted at the local park district pool. They could go to the deep end, to the diving boards and I couldn’t. My parents wouldn’t let me go with them because I couldn’t swim. So, naturally, I wanted to learn how to swim in the worst way.

My dad took me to Pioneer Park’s swimming pool to teach me how to swim. This is how my dad taught me to swim. We went to the end of the pool where the water was about 5 feet high. I was probably 3 feet tall at that point. My dad got into the water about ten feet from me and said, “Come here.”

I looked down at the water, looked across to my dad and said “No!” My dad said, “Come here.” I said, “No” even louder. My dad said, “Come here” even louder. I screamed, “No.” My dad said in a gentle voice, at least a gentle voice for a football coach, “Don’t be afraid, I’ll catch you, I won’t let you drown. Now jump!”

I jumped. Needless to say, my dad caught me, he didn’t let me drown and I learned how to swim.

But, what if instead of catching me, my dad let me drown. What if he said, “Let me show you how much I love you” and then didn’t catch me. Even worse, what if said, “Let me show you how much I love you”, didn’t catch me, and then drowned with me?

What benefit would there be to that? What kind of father would he have been?

You see, in His cross and resurrection, our Lord Jesus, jumps into the pool with us, he catches us, and lifts us out of the deep water to new life. Our Lord Jesus, in His cross and resurrection, rescues us, saves us and delivers us from all evil. He doesn’t just say that he loves us. Instead, He hangs on a cross for us and then rises to new life on the Third Day to show us how much he loves us. He jumps into the world with us in order to love us, to save us and to give us new life; life eternal!

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.



