

FROM FATHER JOHN: *“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, His mercy endures forever. The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; the right hand of the LORD is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.” ~ Psalm 118*

He is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!!!



On this *Easter Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus*, I want to wish you and your family a Holy, Blessed and Most Happy Easter!!! Please be assured that you and your family are in my prayers; that the Lord God will guide you, protect you, keep you safe and bring well-being to you and all those you love!

The Most Reverend Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, was one of my theology professors in the seminary. He used to tell us when we were in seminary that if Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then we should all go home and get honest jobs. And you know what, he was right! If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then nothing we do would ever matter or have any significance in the world. After all, it was St. Paul who wrote, “If Jesus is not raised from the dead, our preaching is in vain and we are the most pitiable of men.”

It's a binary proposition, it's an either-or proposition, Jesus either rose from the dead or he didn't. It's really that simple. If Jesus was not raised from the dead, Christianity is a fraud and a joke; if he did rise from the dead, then Christianity is

the fullness of God's revelation, and Jesus must be the absolute center of our lives. There are really no other options.

Jesus says to us, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though he die, will live with me forever.” It sounds good, it sounds better than good, it sounds great. But Jesus knew — as we all know — that talk is cheap. Jesus didn’t give us a bunch of talk, he did something concrete, something real, something tangible, he came into the world to give us his life, to die for us, to lie in the tomb dead for three days, to rise to new life. And, he did all this so that you and I might have life.

Jesus Christ is Risen and for those of us who believe in him, who follow him, who reshape our lives to conform to him, we will reap the reward that He won for us in in His resurrection. We will rise with him and will rest with him for all eternity in his heavenly kingdom. This is what we celebrate today, this is what we celebrate and give thanks for every day – the great victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death and darkness, the great victory of Jesus Christ that brings us eternal life.

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



