

About two decades ago, my Uncle Doug went over to granny and papa's house on Easter. His kids and grandkids were with the other side of the family, so it was just the three of them as he was the only child who lived locally. Upon arrival, granny informed him that she had hidden eggs in the yard, and since he was the only one there... Despite being over 50 years old, and with no real options, he dutifully picked up the proffered basket and headed out (with some grumbling). Some things never change.

Thankfully, some do. Jesus Christ came to earth and shared in our humanity. But that wasn't enough for him. He taught for three years, unfolding for us the mystery of God the Father and his love, and inviting us to a way of life with him. But that wasn't enough for him. He worked countless miracles, healing people of their infirmities, casting out demons, and feeding multitudes. But that wasn't enough for him. He went to the Cross, and suffered and died for us and our sins, and rose from the dead.

But that wasn't enough for us. It's awesome, truly. But we must be willing to rise with him. We must leave sin behind, and one day, death itself, embolden by his grace and mercy and love. Those sins which bind us captive no longer have to be the end of the story. The broken world, and our brokenness relationships, can find redemption in Christ, and we can know peace even if others choose another path. It isn't just Jesus whom the Father glorifies - we can be glorified as well! Alleluia!

It's up to us. Jesus can roll away stones. Jesus can raise the dead. But like Lazarus, it's up to us to decide whether we will leave the tomb behind, whether we are willing to hold onto him more tightly than some of those other things we carry with us.

So, what does the Resurrection mean for you this year? How will you live Easter – not just on this day, with family and friends, feasting and egg hunting, but to truly find that new life that Jesus wants to give you? In what part of your life does redemption and glory await?

I hope and pray you have a blessed Easter and know the true joy of Christ risen from the dead – with and for you, and you with him. Alleluia!

In Christ,  
Fr. Matthew Oakland