



EASTER HOMILY 2026

Easter Vigil Readings:

Genesis 1:1-2:2 Exodus 14:15-15:1 Isaiah 55:1-11
Romans 6:3-11 Matthew 28:1-10

Easter Sunday Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a. 37-40 Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10 (Instead of John 20:1-9)

Anyone here Japanese and/or know Japanese language?

Japanese Christians have a wonderful greeting for this day. They say *gofukkatsu omedetou gozaimasu*. The phrase means '**Resurrection, congratulations!**'

When do we congratulate others? Obviously, when something wonderful has happened in their lives.

By saying 'congratulations,' I say I share the other's joy. It's an unselfish greeting. Congratulations refer to the other person and the event's meaning for him or her, not so much on the event itself.

So, I congratulate you on the great grade you receive in school or the musical you were a part of. Maybe you play sports, so I can congratulate you on your performance, a big win. Maybe you received a promotion at work. Whatever, we congratulate the person on what they achieved. We share their joy.

Why do Japanese Christians congratulate one another on Easter? Why should we congratulate each other for what happened to Jesus? Isn't it he who deserves the congratulations? He is the one whose rising we celebrate. What do you or I to do with that?

A lot, as it turns out. On Easter we do not celebrate the Resurrection of Christ as a once-upon-a-time event. It is our feast as well as Christ's.

Resurrection, congratulations!

We should be congratulated on Easter and should congratulate our fellow Christians as well because in Christ's Resurrection, we, too, are raised to new life.

Resurrection, congratulations!

That is the reason that during Easter Mass we renew our Baptismal commitment. As St Paul reminds us, in Baptism we enter the grave with Jesus to be raised with him to new life. So, on the day we celebrate Jesus' rising to new life, we reconfirm our union with him. This day new life began for all of us when Jesus rose from the dead.

Resurrection, congratulations!

Easter is our birthday in eternal life. When does eternal life begin? Eternal life began for us when we died with Christ in Baptism and entered union with the risen Lord.

Resurrection, congratulations!

Christ is risen, and we are risen through him, with him and in him. So what we may ask? Is my life really all that different from that of others because I'm baptized? Am I more moral than others? Nicer than others? Better than others? Not particularly. So, what's the point?

Resurrection, congratulations!

On Easter, we recommit ourselves as disciples of the Lord. As our parish mission statement declares, "Come Follow Me." We renounce a life apart from God and declare our desire to live as sons and daughters of God. We make a choice to live eternal life here and now.

Resurrection, congratulations!

What will this commitment mean to me and the world? It should mean freedom from the fear that prevents my accepting and sharing the love of God. If I am already living eternal life, why fear anything that can happen to me in this world? I am united with the risen Lord. So, I can be a servant to God and my neighbor. I can be the sign of the new creation begun in the Resurrection of Jesus.

Resurrection, congratulations!

Today we remember the day on which eternal life became available to us through Jesus' Resurrection.

Resurrection, congratulations!

(Source for this homily is Grimm, William. In Season and Out, Homilies for Year A (p. 104). ATF Press. Kindle Edition.)

Prayer from Bringing Home the Word

Let's renew our baptismal promises