



April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday the Resurrection of the Lord

"He has been raised from the dead and is going before you to Galilee; There you will see him." Matthew 28:7

Dear Friends,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

You may have noticed around our worship space we have a number of butterflies as seasonal décor. For centuries the butterfly has been a symbol of Easter. It is a natural image of transformation and renewal. The stubby caterpillar reborn in the cocoon emerges as the majestic butterfly. The Greek language uses the same word for 'butterfly' and the human soul, Psyche. In ancient Greek mythology, the god of the flesh, Eros, in love with the butterfly, Psyche, pursued her.

The early Church in Rome adapted the myth's symbol as decoration in the catacombs. The butterfly became a symbol of the transformation of the resurrection. It also represents those who are lifted up beyond the limits of this life by the great love of God. Like a butterfly emerges from the tomb-like cocoon so we will rise to a new glorified life in Christ.

The third day is symbolic language for "God's time." The women who went to the tomb on that third day had no idea about an ending to Jesus' story, beyond what they expected. As they approached the tomb, they could not forget the dying Jesus crying out in the darkness. The earth shook, the Holy of Holies was open and exposed, ghosts wandered the earth and the soldiers trembled. These women followed Jesus' friends to the tomb. They watched the stone seal the end of the story and they kept watch through the Sabbath.

As they returned on the third day the earth quaked once more. Instead of a sealed tomb, they see an angel roll the stone away and sit on top of it. The angel answered the unasked question that the terrified women could not find the voice to speak: *"Don't be afraid, he has been raised. Go and tell the disciples to go to Galilee where you will see him."* Filled with wonder and confusion they set off to do as the angel commanded. Along the way the Risen Christ comes to them. They cling to him as he repeats everything the angel said. He sends them on mission as the first apostles of his resurrection.

Galilee is a journey of one hundred miles. There Jesus says he would meet the disciples. Why Galilee? Galilee is where the mission and ministry of Jesus began. In Galilee Jesus anointed in the Spirit proclaims the good news of salvation to the poor, recovery of sight to the blind, a Jubilee of God's favor; there the sick were healed, sins forgiven, demons cast out, and a family is created out of those who desire only to do the will of God. Going back there implies starting over again.

Christ has risen and lives in his Church. We see him when we do what he did in Galilee. The resurrection sends us back to the places where we have been touched, healed and forgiven by Christ, the times when God's creation so overwhelmed us with such beauty that all we could do is give thanks. These are the moments we experience God. Easter returns us to the best we have known. The Spirit opens us up to the unexpected that is yet to come. We can start over again and again. And we will never be the same as the mystery of Christ emerges from us like a butterfly from a cocoon.

Christ is risen!

Fr Ron

Esta carta está en español en el sitio web: www.anne.church