



## BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF CHICAGO

Reflections for Easter Sunday  
April 20, 2025  
Sr. Mary Susan Remsgar

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43  
Ps 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23  
1Cor 5: 6b-8  
Jn 20: 1-9

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”

A Blessed and Joyous Easter to each and all of you!

Easter, referred to as the Feast of Hope, is celebrated as the culmination of Jesus’ ministry and mission to bring the gifts of love, light, and life into our lives and our world. This Easter Sunday does not stand alone but is part of what we call the Easter Triduum, to include Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. In prayerful remembrance, we have accompanied Jesus during his passion and death leading us to this celebration of his resurrection. Jesus was raised to new life because he gave himself in love to God and to all of humanity. In surrendering to what God asked of him, Jesus made it possible for us to love, to say “yes” to God, and to live in hope that we too, will one day be resurrected and live forever. While we remain here, on this earth, Easter brings us the hope of new beginnings, renewal, restoration, and reconciliation. Easter assures us that God fulfills his promise to forgive, to heal, and to love us always. Easter is the time and season to remember and celebrate God’s promise to us. It is also the time to renew our promise to God.

Shortly, we will have the blessing and sprinkling of water, and renewal of our baptismal promises. As we renew these promises, we recommit ourselves once again, to live as followers of Christ, to live in loving relationship with God and with one another. During his passion, death, and resurrection, Jesus has shown us that love ultimately generates new life. God’s love is always life-giving even in the midst of heartbreak, suffering, and death itself. Easter assures us that it is worth the struggle to stay the course, to not give up on ourselves, one another or God himself. In God’s love for Jesus, God brought life out of the tomb, light out of darkness, glory out of suffering and humiliation. We are asked to trust that the love of God continues to do the same for us.

In today’s second reading, St. Paul uses the imagery of yeast and dough instructing us to get rid of the old yeast so that we may become a new, fresh batch of dough, supple, strong, nourishing, life-sustaining. The old yeast, our old ways keep us stale, hardened, unpalatable. Paul is telling us we need to let go of all that keeps us from receiving the spiritual energy to begin again in sincerity and truth, to become the new creation God calls us to be. As Benedictines, we are familiar with the idea of beginning anew. St. Benedict, himself, in the Holy Rule encourages us, “always we begin again.” When we fall or fail in our efforts and commitment to follow Christ, God’s grace and forgiveness allow us a fresh start to learn to be merciful to ourselves and others. Our Risen Christ comes not to judge or condemn us, but only to raise us up in this life and the next. Pope Francis in his Jubilee Year message reminds us that “Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one can separate us from God’s love.” Easter is about fully embracing life as Jesus did in the best of times and the worst of times because God love is ours to sustain us and bring us to new life.

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While the message of Easter is about Jesus, it is very much about us, about humanity. Easter is about a common hope, a shared meaning, purpose and direction that as we give ourselves in love and service to one another, God is giving immeasurably more to us. The resurrection of Jesus holds the promise of resurrection for all of humanity. This gives us hope to look for new signs of life and new ways of being, today and in the days to come as God is making a new creation of us all and of our world through the transformative power of the resurrection of Jesus. Whenever and wherever we bring the gifts of love, light and life to others, God is making all things new for us as God did for Jesus, the Faithful One, the Beloved One, the Risen One who over and over again invites us, "Come, follow me and I will give you the light of life" (John 8:12).