

Easter Changes Everything

April. Easter. Resurrection.
"Flesh and bones and all."
New life, new hope, new beginnings.

"Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth ... and he shall reign for ever and ever: King of kings and Lord of lords. Hallelujah."

"Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son."

Easter is magnificent. It can only be rendered in the most glorious music. It can only be spoken of with awe. It can only be experienced as a very partial foretaste – and how powerful that can be. It demands a full 50-day festival in our calendars. It changes everything: history, the meaning and purpose of life, the future (to name just a few). Easter is the big one.



Stand in awe. On this day, in this event, Jesus Christ is named as "our Lord" and "declared to be Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4 – try unpacking the astonishing sentence that is Romans 1:1–7 as an Easter spiritual exercise: it is utterly life-changing).

Easter is about life-changing joy. Feel Mary Magdalene's elation as she witnesses to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18), and re-read that astonishing story. Hear Peter's experience: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). Stand with Thomas as he meets the risen Christ, and fall to your knees with him, exclaiming "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

The resurrection isn't to be analysed or debated. It is to be experienced and received. It isn't to raise questions and doubts. It is to flood our souls with joy.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

+ Donald

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