



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee April 2024

What Does Risen Life Mean...?

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

We are in the glorious Easter Season...! Yes, Jesus is risen...but what does that mean for us who continue to struggle? We live in time/space, and that means we are all too familiar with the bottom side of the Paschal Mystery...the dark side. We see it on the news...with Haiti, with Gaza, with divisions in our own government. We feel it in our own health conditions, with the relational struggles at work and in the family. So what does being an 'Easter People' really mean?

It means that I'm new, like the springtime. That in the midst of the struggle, I carry a knowing little smile on my soul. That smile gets me through my day to day. It's knowing that whatever I'm going through, at rock bottom, I'm OK, I'm safe. Yes, the Risen One has hold of me...and he's not ever going to let go. I've cost him too much. I'm free, I'm saved, he's nailed my guilt to the cross...I can breathe! I need not be afraid...even of dying. His perfect love casts out my fear. Each day is new...because I'm new.

It means that there's hope for my amnesia...my forgetfulness of the intimacy he has won for me. His cross has shown me to what extent his love will go to join me in my struggle. As I struggle, he has joined me. He meets me there. It means too, that I already carry my own new life. He has brought it. He gifts me with it. It is growing within me. There is no room for despair despite the darkness. His promise teaches me to whistle in the dark.

It means that I am a worded woman, a worded man. I carry my future. I need to let it shine. Even in the struggle I need to be like a freshly washed window. I can see out, and others can see in. That's how I go into my day, to my work, how I meet folks, hour to hour. I spill out like light into a room. I am a word of hope just by entering a room. I am a real presence because he is, and we come together wherever I go. Despite my weakness, my faults, my sins, I'm an Easter person because he has made me so.

What is this 'new' thing you are doing, with me, with us?

What is this 'eastering' thing?

Is it secret and hidden, going on in spite of my being aware?

Like the way oxygen works in my blood or how my food becomes energy?

What are you about as you easter in us?

*Are you gracing things, changing things and moving things
into their future,*

the future you dream for us?

Can I help you - ?

Thank you to Associate Shirley Talbot for this month's reflections

Sunday, April 7, 2024 | The Second Sunday of Easter | I Jn 5:1-6, Jn 20:19-31

Alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord.

Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe. Jn 20:29

Into their darkness, Jesus came and said, "Peace be with you." Today feels dark to us. Like Thomas, we want proof of Jesus' presence. "Until I see..." In his first letter, John says it is faith that conquers the world. It is faith, then, that gets us out of the house, showing love to our neighbor. How can I bring peace into my neighbor's darkness? What will I see?

Sunday, April 14, 2024 | The Third Sunday of Easter | Lk 24:35-48

Alleluia! Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn

while you speak to us. Lk 24:32

Two of Jesus' disciples spent the day with him and didn't know who was with them until they recognized him in the breaking of the bread. We need Jesus to open our eyes. Slow down. Breathe deep. Look around and within. What will I see? Show us the point, Lord.

Sunday, April 21, 2024 | The Fourth Sunday of Easter | I Jn 3:1-2, Jn 10:11-18

Alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep,

and mine know me. Jn 10:14

We are the sheep and Jesus is our good shepherd. The wolf came, and making a choice, Jesus laid down his life. Powerful. The story is not over. What will I see? Jesus had power first to lay down his life for his sheep and then to take his life back up again. Whoa! It is not our power we trust. It is his. He's got this.

Sunday, April 28, 2024 | The Fifth Sunday of Easter | Jn 15:1-8, Acts 9:26-31

Alleluia! Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit. Jn 15:4a, 5b

What will I see? Is it dark? Not sure who is with you? Are there people who don't get it; who don't get you? Sometimes you don't get it yourself? Peace be with you! You are already pruned because of the word that Jesus spoke to you. Relax. The fruit comes from him.

