

EASTER SUNDAY 2021

“They recognized him when they broke bread”

(Luke 24:13-35)

When I feel happy, I think of the Colombian expression "que dicha y que felicidad" or "what joy and what happiness!" The Glorious Resurrection of Christ spontaneously brings such joy and happiness not once but a thousand times: Christ is risen, what joy and what happiness! And the happiness that is freely given to us is for all and to be shared by all since the one who has risen becomes a companion on the journey of those who have not yet finished understanding God's plan. Scripture tells us that the Emmaus disciples were sad and crestfallen until they recognized Jesus at the breaking of bread.

Today we have gathered and together with nature, in the season of Spring, which fills our world with beautiful flowers, we can sing to the God of Life that we want life for everyone, especially for those who are by our side. Jesus has overcome the gates of death. He has redeemed us from our sins. What happened two thousand years ago continues today since the Risen Christ no longer is dead; death has been conquered. Let us give thanks full of joy and let our hearts beat happily because Jesus wants once again to become our companion on the way. His sacrifice has brought us eternal life. **What happiness and what happiness!**

Pope Francis told us that Lent was the way back to God. This glorious morning, the Readings invite us to walk with **Mary Magdalene, Peter and John**, as witnesses of the empty tomb that signals that **another world is possible**. Life prevails over death, hope over hopelessness. The pandemic that seemed to have the last word on death today is also cause for hope since by the mercy of the Risen Christ we are alive. Just as the apostles

Peter and Paul gave testimony before the Gentiles and Christians, today it is our turn to announce the New Life that is given to us in the Risen Christ.

Let us pray and ask for the grace of continued joy, the kind that only Jesus can give us. May Jesus remove our pains, darkness, fears and transform them with the vitality of new life that is revealed in love. Indeed, the narrator of the fourth Gospel tells us "**that the beloved disciple saw and believed.**" It was the intensity of his love that led him to believe and it is the same love that unites us to Christ and that manifests itself in love for our brothers and sisters. That is why when you do works of love and receive the fruits of love, shout out loud: ***Christ is risen, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

Happy Easter!

Fr. Hernán, SJ

*"The **Risen One** is none other than the **Crucified One**. He bears indelible wounds on his glorious body, wounds that become arrays of hope. We turn our gaze to him so that he heals the wounds of desolate humanity" (Pope Francis).*