



March 31, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Easter morning, we stand with the first disciples before the empty tomb and encounter a truth so astonishing that it forever changed the course of history: Christ is risen. The Resurrection of Jesus lies at the very heart of our faith. It is the foundation of our hope and the source of meaning in our lives today. Because Christ has triumphed over sin and death, we know with certainty that darkness, suffering, and despair will never have the final word.

Yet even as we rejoice in this most sacred feast, we remain keenly aware of the suffering that continues to afflict our world. In many places, families live with daily uncertainty and fear. The ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and in the Middle East weigh heavily upon the hearts of people everywhere, as countless innocent lives are scarred by violence, displacement, and loss. Closer to home, many among us carry personal crosses—family struggles, illness, loneliness, grief, or anxiety about the future.

It is precisely into a world marked by such pain that the message of Easter speaks most powerfully. The Resurrection proclaims that God is at work even when the night seems darkest. The stone that sealed the tomb could not contain the life that God had promised. In the same way, the forces of hatred, division, and war cannot overcome the power of God's love revealed in the risen Christ.

On that first Easter night, when Jesus appeared to His disciples, His first words were simple yet profound: "Peace be with you." These words were not merely a greeting or a reassurance; they were a mission. The risen Lord entrusted His followers with the task of carrying His peace into a wounded world. That same mission is entrusted to us today.

As Pope Leo reminds us: "To recognize the Resurrection means to change one's outlook on the world: to return to the light to recognize the Truth that has saved us, and that saves us. Sisters and brothers, let us remain watchful every day in the wonder of the Pasch of the risen Jesus. He alone makes the impossible possible!" (Pope Leo XIV, General Audience, 22 October 2025)

This Easter, I invite each of you to continue to renew your commitment to being instruments of Christ's peace. Peace begins within our own hearts—through prayer, repentance, forgiveness, and a deeper trust in God. It takes root in our families when we choose patience, compassion, and understanding. It grows within our parishes and communities when we reach out to those who are suffering, isolated, or in need.

At the beginning of Lent, I encouraged you to meditate upon and embrace the Corporal Works of Mercy, particularly in remembering and, when possible, advocating on behalf of migrants and refugees who face so many challenges today. I ask you to continue this commitment in the joy and hope of the Easter season. Christ's peace becomes a powerful witness when people of faith pray and work together for reconciliation, justice, and respect for the dignity of every human life.

Our prayers truly matter. Prayer may seem like a quiet response in a world filled with the noise of conflict and division, yet it remains one of the most powerful acts of hope we possess. Let us pray especially for those living in regions torn by war, for the leaders of nations—that they may choose dialogue over violence—and for all who labor daily to bring about peace, healing, and reconciliation in our world.

The Resurrection assures us that God's plan is always greater than the tragedies we see before us. Just as the disciples moved from fear to faith when they encountered the risen Lord, so too are we called to live as people of hope—confident that Christ walks with us and continues to renew the world through His grace.

May this Easter season renew our faith and strengthen our resolve to be witnesses of Christ's peace. May our homes, parishes, and communities become places where the light of the Resurrection shines brightly for all to see.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your families during this joyful season. May our Blessed Mother, who shared in Her Son's Passion and rejoiced in His Easter victory over death, intercede for us. May the peace of the risen Christ fill your hearts, guide our world toward reconciliation, and lead us ever more deeply into the hope that does not disappoint.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Timothy C. Senior  
Bishop of Harrisburg