



MARCH 31, 2013 – EASTER DAY

AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP

“Rejoice ... rejoice and sing ... rejoice and be glad ... earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.” (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 286-287)

As the Lenten season ends in Easter rejoicing, note what has been wrought in you this year. A remarkable cross section of America has been practicing Lenten disciplines, even some who are not active Christians (<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/16/us/a-ritual-of-lent-attract>). There is a deep hunger in our collective psyche to re-orient our lives toward life and light, healing and peace. We share a holy hunger for clarity about what is good and life-giving, and we yearn to re-focus on what is most central and important in life.

Easter celebrates the victory of light and life over darkness and death. God recreates and redeems all life from dead, dry, and destroyed bones. We are released from the bonds of self-obsession, addiction, and whatever would steal away the radical freedom of God-with-us. Our lives re-center in what is most holy and creative, the new thing God is continually doing in our midst. Practicing vulnerability toward the need and hunger of others around us, we have cultivated compassionate hearts. We join in baptismal rebirth in the midst of Jesus’ own passing-over.

The wonder of the resurrection is upon us once more. May we embrace God’s ever-new life with every cell of our being, every yearning of our soul, and every muscle of our will. Christ is risen, death is vanquished, humanity is restored to holy and creative relationship with God’s ongoing and eternal liveliness. Praise God who brings light out of darkness, life out of death, and newness out of the stale and moribund. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church



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(image from Wikimedia)



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