



Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan
Office of the Archbishop

Archbishop's Easter Message to the faithful of Sudan

April 2010

Texts: Exodus 12: 1-4, Psalms 116: 1-10, 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26, John 13: 1-17

Halleluiah, Halleluiah, Halleluiah!

Jesus has risen from the dead!

Happy Easter to all of you. Pass Easter greetings to each one next to you.

On the first day of the week, the women took the spices and went to the tomb.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb and they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

As they were wondering, the two men came and stood beside them. The women bowed down before them.

But the angel said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, he is risen!"

They came back from the tomb and informed the apostles. Peter, and John went to the tomb.

Jesus is not among the dead. He lives. He reigns in the hearts of Christians.

He is the head of his Church. The angels reminded the women that Jesus predicted his death. We are reminded today.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the center of our faith. On this the Church is built. There would be no Church today if Jesus did not rise from the dead.

God's mighty power is at work destroying sin, creating new lives, and preparing us for the second coming of Jesus.

Because of the resurrection, death has been conquered and we are going to be raised from the dead and live forever with Christ.

The resurrection gives the authority to the Church to witness in the world.

The resurrection gives us hope for life in the future.

The resurrection assured us that Christ is alive.

God's power that brought Jesus back from the dead is available to us.

The resurrection confirms Jesus' unique authority to say, "*I am the resurrection and the life.*" (John 11:25)

Because of the resurrection, our sins are forgiven. He has defeated death.

Christ came to defeat all evil on earth. He defeated sin and death on the cross. And on the final day he will defeat Satan and all evil.

Keeping company with those who deny the resurrection could corrupt good Christians' character. Don't let your relationship with unbelievers lead you away from Christ.

Our resurrected bodies will be transformed. Our spiritual bodies will not be limited, will not be weak, will never get sick, and will never die.

We all face limitations. Those who have physical, mental, or emotional disabilities are especially aware of this.

Some may be blind, but they can see a new way to live.
Some may be deaf, but they can hear God's Good News.
Some may be lame, but they can walk in God's Love.

When we are blind spiritually
When we are deaf spiritually
When we are lame spiritually
We turn the world upside down.

That is the problem with us in this country. When we don't see through spiritual eyes, we destroy what we have.

When Christ returns, we will have new bodies and these bodies will be without disabilities.

Death is no longer a source of fear, Christ welcomed it. Death has been defeated, and we have hope beyond the grave.

At this time of Easter you are to identify your personal weakness
Stay away from sources of temptation
Let us invest our time in good habits and services

Christ has broken down the dividing wall, the hostility between us.

He has reconciled us to God. Tribal and political differences must be put aside at this crucial time.

Whatever differences between us, we are to swallow them. We are all children of God.

Let us truly be reconciled with one another. Let us swallow the bitterness we have.

We must be tolerant to each other and promote a culture of Peace, despite our differences.

We are to have the sense of belonging to each other.
We are to have the sense of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Please listen to the voice of the Church and forgive each other.

We are aware of your bitterness, but it is wrong to quarrel. It is a time to forgive and restore our relationship.

I am appealing to you all. Let's go and vote, this is your basic right, and make sure you don't vote yourself out.

The Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Yak

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