



REFLECTIONS

April 4, 2021 Refreshed from April 12, 2020

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57

Victory

For more than a thousand days they followed him. Now with Jesus gone, the disciples huddled in the upper room without him. Two nights and one lonely day passed in fear of being next. Sunday morning promised to be another. Then Mary burst through the door.

Mary Magdalen slept little since her Lord's death. Jesus filled every thought. She wanted—no, she *needed* him! Mary hurried through the morning darkness to his tomb to be with him. Whatever her expectations might have been when she arrived, she didn't expect what she found.

"He is not here," the angel said. "He has risen!" Stunned yet elated by the news, Mary ran to find the disciples; then bursting through the door, she gasped, "He has risen! He has risen!" John and Peter in doubt raced to see for themselves. The empty tomb said it all.

He has risen! He has risen indeed!

Heavenly Father, your Light shines so brightly this Easter Sunday. Today air smells fresher, hope feels greater, and your love most clearly revealed. It is your day, loving God. It is the day we remember who you are and what you did for us. On this day you conquered death.

Every day we seem to live as if you were not there. Every day we fail to follow your commands. We fail to love others as ourselves; and we fail to love you above all else. Yet you so *loved us that you gave your only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Today we come to you in celebration of the time you walked with us in this world, when you suffered humiliation, pain, and a tortuous death all because of your love for us. Today, "*Death is swallowed up in victory.*"

*"Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"* (1 Corinthians 15:54-55)

This Easter day we celebrate victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We give thanks to you today, Loving God, for this indescribable gift!

Amen

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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