



REFLECTIONS

April 9, 2023

**"Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"**

1 Corinthians 15:55

Empty Cross

Refreshed from the Archives of March 31, 2013

It stood under a darkened sky atop a rock laden hill called Golgotha. The cross, now empty, once held a lifeless body sacrificed on its rugged shell, but the image of Jesus' ravaged body and bloody brow etched unforgettably in the mind. And the image of his mother, who watched in heart wrenching grief at his suffering, sat tearfully beneath it. Perhaps she even felt relief when He gave up his spirit and uttered his final words:

"It is finished."

The cross stood empty, but memories of the trembling earth, the torn curtain, and the blackness that fell that Friday afternoon still darkened the mind. Nearby, a large round stone secured the tomb where more than Jesus' body had been placed. Hope was buried there too.

Then came the third day. Dawn's soft glow began to peep from behind the Mount of Olives. Its soft Light haloed the empty cross; and something more. The radiance of a new day outshined the darkness to reveal the tomb was empty. And with it, Light renewed hope onto a glorious Easter Day.

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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Your comments are welcomed and encouraged. Richard may be reached at richard@reflectingthesavior.org