



DIocese of RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

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I am the resurrection and the life.
John 11:25

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we gather in the radiant light of Easter, I greet you with the joy, hope and renewal of the Risen Lord: Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

We welcome this fifty-day celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and are reminded that as Christians, our witness to the world is to radiate joy – the joy of remembering who we are and whose we are.

And this joy is made more profound and powerful because of hope. This sacred season is a testament to the triumph of hope over despair. When life feels uncertain, we may call upon this hope – a hope that does not deny our pain but transforms it through the power of God's love.

When all seems a dismal and disheartening failure, God reverses human expectations and brings forth new life and new beginnings in abundance. Easter Sunday reminds us that the tomb is not the end. Our Lord Jesus Christ, through His resurrection, has shattered the chains of sin and death, offering us an unshakable promise of hope and renewal.

This Easter, I invite you to bring all of your burdens to the foot of the empty cross. Let the constant renewal called forth by Christ's resurrection become a means for growth and transformation in our lives and in our world. And may the grace of this Easter season fill you with renewed and radiant joy!

May Mary, our Mother of Hope, intercede for you, and may the Risen Lord bless you abundantly with His light and love.

In Christ,

† Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L.
Bishop of Raleigh