

EASTER SUNDAY, 2026

The Lord is Risen, indeed, He is Risen.

When Jesus Christ the Lord rose from the dead, He launched a revolution, and He passed on that revolution to His Church. This revolution proclaims that in Jesus Christ we have the answers to humanity's basic questions.

1. Why do I exist? I exist because God's creative Word called me out of nothingness.
2. Why was I called out of nothingness? God's creative Word wants me to share in His happiness and life forever.
3. How is this possible, since the world is full of evil? God's creative Word became True Man in Jesus Christ, and took upon Himself all of the world's evil. When it met His Love, it died. All who believe in Jesus Christ share in His victory over evil. Their sins are forgiven, and their ability to do good is strengthened and renewed.
4. How is this possible, since everyone and everything in this world dies? God's creative Word, made True Man in Jesus Christ, died like all men, but rose gloriously from the dead. All who belong to Him, by Faith and Good Works, will rise from the dead too.
5. But what about right now? Jesus Christ established His Church and, until the end of the ages, He always sends her forth to carry His living Presence into every corner of the world, enabling people to live in this world a new life.
6. How can I live this new life on my own? You aren't on your own. Be part of the Church, and in the Church experience and share Jesus Christ's living Presence.

Down through 20 Centuries, observers have found the Church kind of weird. That is perfectly natural. Resurrection is weird. The Church didn't naturally evolve out of 1st Century Palestinian Judaism. It exploded from the shock of Jesus of Nazareth's entire career, culminating in the utterly unexpected shock of His Resurrection. That Resurrection was one of history's few "Big Bang" moments, when gradual evolution was replaced by stunning revolution. That revolution was nothing less than Eternal Life entering the world. From that revolution came Jesus Christ's Holy Church, entrusted with carrying His Eternal Life to every human being who is able and willing to hear the Good News of Faith, Faith that promises Eternal Life.

As I studied history, I was soon struck by how early the Christian, Catholic Church was quite clearly herself.

She didn't gradually become dogmatic. From the very beginning she proclaimed a few basic dogmas as absolutely true and life giving for all who, by God's gift, are willing to accept them:

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Jesus Christ is true God and true Man, the Word of God Who became Flesh.

Jesus Christ truly died for the sins of every single human being who has ever lived or will ever live.

Jesus Christ truly rose in the flesh to be the Resurrection of all who, by God's Grace, belong to Him.

Jesus Christ will reveal Himself in glory at the end of the ages.
Until the end of the ages, He entrusts His mystical, living Presence to His Church.

His Church didn't gradually become organized. From the very beginning she had a leadership structure built around Jesus' chosen Apostles, the Elders who assisted them, and the Deacons who ministered to the Christian community in various ways.

She didn't gradually develop Sacraments. From the beginning, she passed on God's saving Grace through visible, physical rituals, most clearly Baptism and the Holy Eucharist.

Of course, there has been and will always be a great deal of change and development in the life, structure, and worship of the Church, just as human beings change without ceasing to be themselves. I am not the entirely the same man I was in the late 80s. Much about me has changed. Yet, I am recognizably who I was in the late 80s. Friends of that era recognize me physically. Friends of that era recognize continuity in personality traits, ideas, and interests. So it is with the Church. She did not instantly look or act exactly like she does today, but she was already herself. Already she had a quite definite message for the world, summed up as "Jesus Christ is Lord!" Already she had quite definite Sacraments, most particularly Baptism and the Holy Eucharist, physical rites that enable people to receive Jesus Christ, and to live in Him. Already she had a definite Apostolic structure, to assure that her Message and Sacraments were kept pure.

The Church emerged from the revolution of the Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection, by the working of Jesus Christ's Holy Spirit, already prepared for action, already able to fight the Good Fight. The Good Fight is bringing the presence of Jesus Christ into the lives of all people, and this necessarily begins with the proclamation that He is alive. He once was dead, but death could hold Him. Now He lives! This is the Church's central proclamation.

Jesus Christ lives! And because He lives, He is the source of Eternal life for all who come to Him.

So, come to Him tonight and this morning. Come to hear His word that gives Faith. Having received Faith, come to receive the Eternal Life that Faith promises, through Baptism and the Holy Eucharist.

Come to Christ because He is alive and life-giving. Come to Him and live.

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!