

Faith and Light international
Easter 2023

He is not there, he is risen!



Lake of Galilee

Then the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him'. Behold, I have told you." (Matthew 28: 5-7)

On Easter morning the women return to the tomb, but they don't find the body of the Lord Jesus. In addition to feeling disappointment and a sense of defeat, now they don't even have the possibility of mourning the death of Jesus. It is the end of a promise, the promise of a kingdom of peace and justice. But the angel tells the women that the Lord is risen, that he is no longer where they thought he was, and that they have been searching in the wrong direction. The same goes for us: in moments of fatigue and disappointment, in moments of suffering and sadness, we seek the Lord where we cannot find him.

The angel, however, gives the women a precious indication: he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. The proclamation of Easter reaches us once again as a promise of new life, because death has been defeated and the gift of the Lord Jesus is stronger than evil and injustice. This proclamation reaches us and all those who even today are victims of suffering, injustice and war.

The Lord goes before us, walks before us to show us the way and makes himself recognized in Galilee, that is, in our daily life, in the familiar places of every day, in our work and in our affections. Our Faith and Light communities, our feasts and our meetings are also the Galilee where Jesus awaits us and makes himself known, through our bonds of love and friendship.

Grant, Lord, that our communities may be a sign of hope for our time, a promise of life for us and for all those who are still looking for you outside the tomb and do not know that you have conquered evil and death.

Happy Easter to everyone!

Don Marco Bove
International chaplain