



The Bishop of Lincoln

Easter 2024

What happens at the beginning of the day? We wake up, we have our breakfast, we go to school. At weekends, we might even get to lie-in!

Something that happens every single day is that the sun rises and a new day begins.

Imagine a sunrise. We start off in darkness, but gradually it gets lighter, until suddenly on the horizon, the dawn breaks and the sun begins to rise.

In church, we sometimes use the image of sunrise to think about Easter. Easter Day is when Jesus, the Son of God, rose again after his death on the Cross on Good Friday. We call it the Resurrection.

And just like the dawning of a new day, Easter begins in darkness. Jesus was taken down from the Cross and buried in a tomb. Yet the darkness turns to light, and in the Easter Story, we hear that the tomb is empty, Jesus is risen and the world is never the same again.

Jesus is like the dawning of a new day: light breaking on the world, because he died and rose again.

These images of darkness and light are found in the whole story of Easter. On Good Friday, the Bible tells us that a great darkness spread over the land in the middle of the day. When Jesus was taken down from the cross and buried in the tomb, the Bible tells us that this happened in the evening, when the sun is setting. Then, on that glorious Easter Day, we hear that Mary Magdalene and her companions go to the tomb and find it empty, at dawn, on the first day of the week.

A movement from darkness to light. Christians talk about Easter in the same way. We believe that when Christ rose from his tomb, he overcame the darkness of the world: all our failings, our weaknesses, our mistakes.

The Resurrection of Jesus changed the world and changed people's lives. Just like his disciples, two thousand years ago, Jesus continues to change lives today, and this is something I know to be true in my own life.

Easter is a wonderful promise from God, that even in the darkness there is a light which shines, bringing hope and joy and love to our world.

So, my hope and prayer for you all this Eastertide is this:

...in the darkness, may you see a light shining.

...in death, may you see the hope of new life.

...in endings, may you discover the joy of new beginnings.

Happy Easter!

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Bishop of Lincoln