

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

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This Sunday, we celebrate the miraculous work of God through Jesus Christ! Today is a day to celebrate because we are reminded of the anchor of our faith that has been resurrected. We are victorious because Jesus is alive! I remember when I was growing up how every Holy Week, my family would travel to Bicol to visit our relatives. Whenever I was there as a child, I got to watch the tradition of "Penitensiya". People would walk around town hitting their own backs with bamboo shards or sometimes even broken glass to reenact how Jesus was punished on the way to the cross. I always wondered why people would do it willingly. I asked my uncle back then, and he said they do it to help them to not forget the sacrifice of Jesus and to try and pay for their wrongdoings.

As we know, we do not need to do that anymore as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and we cannot in any way pay for our sins because Jesus already did that when He died on the cross. But I believe that we do need to remember what Jesus has done for all of us. Before, Holy Week was a time when

everyone stayed at home. It was quiet and solemn, stores were closed, and it was a time to rest. Nowadays, it doesn't feel like that anymore because most stores are open and people really go out like normal. I hope that we all continue to remember what Holy Week is all about.

It is about the journey that Jesus went through as He experienced all the pain and suffering that led Him to the cross where He submitted Himself to the will of the Father. His submission to what God called upon Him reminds me of how much He loved the Father. It led him to the point of death on the cross, and it doesn't stop there! He was resurrected! He lives! He conquered death! And whenever I think of that, I cannot help but feel overwhelmed because of the love shown by Jesus to us. I also feel amazed and overwhelmed because my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, is alive and that death cannot hold Him! That is why we should not forget what Holy Week is about.

And today what we celebrate is Easter or Resurrection Sunday. We celebrate because as believers, the

resurrection of Jesus is the anchor of our faith! If Jesus is not alive and He was not able to resurrect through the Spirit, then our faith is pointless, our hope turns to hopelessness, and our life becomes meaningless. Jesus is alive! He is risen! That is something worth celebrating because His resurrection is what gives us hope in this life.

I hope and pray that today, we remember Christ on the cross and that He was resurrected! May we have grateful hearts that would never forget the ultimate sacrifice at the Cross. And we also remember that He is alive and will come again! That is the hope that keeps us going! There are so many things going on in our lives, and a quarter of the year is already gone. I hope that during this season, we remember God and what He has done through Jesus and through the Spirit. May we find hope where we feel there is no hope because in Jesus, our hope is secure, it is steadfast, and it is sure!

Happy Resurrection Sunday, everyone! God bless us all! ✝