



ALLELUIA!

He is Risen!

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 12, 2020

### **PASTOR'S DESK**

*“Christ is risen!” with response “He is truly risen!” This is the greeting that early Christians said on Easter Day. In our situation right now it is hard to rejoice in the midst of the pandemic event. But again, last year during Easter we rejoiced even though we knew there were people dying around the world whom we didn't know.*

*I think this year we are given a chance to truly understand what Easter is all about — it is not just having joyous celebration because we finished Lenten season but that there is always hope even in the midst of this pandemic. This will not last and there is always hope! And that is what Easter is all about! And if you get it, good for you!*

*Our beloved Bishop Vassa has given a great suggestion for Easter morning — that you could pray the Easter blessings of your home and of the Easter meal with people in your household, whether you are six feet from one another or not. The prayer could be prayed by the mother or father, or all your family members. Here is the prayer:*

#### **Blessing of Homes at Easter:**

Lord, we rejoice in the victory of your Son over death; by rising from the tomb to new life he gives us new hope and promise. Bless all the members of this household and surround them with your protection, that they may find comfort and peace in Jesus Christ, the paschal lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May Christ Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and for ever. Amen.

#### **Blessing of Food for the First Meal of Easter:**

God of glory, the eyes of all turn to you as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. Bless us and this food of our first Easter meal. May we who gather at the Lord's table continue to celebrate the joy of his resurrection and be admitted finally to his heavenly banquet. Amen.

May Christ nourish us and strengthen us in faith and love, now and forever. Amen.

*Peace and Blessings!*

*Fr. Luis*

*P.S. Till we meet again, in Christ!*