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Easter Message 2022

Wounded, Yet Resurrected

Hi everybody! Bishop Michael here to wish you a very blessed and happy Easter.

Like most of you, I am hoping that our Easter worship will, for the most part, be reminiscent of our pre-pandemic celebrations of the Lord's resurrection. But I know that it won't be all that I might hope it would be.

I find it instructive to remember that the post-resurrection Christ still bore the marks of his crucifixion. Indeed, when he first appears among his disciples, he specifically shows them his wounds, saying, "Touch me and see." A week later, he appears again, making a similar revelation to Thomas. Jesus in his post-resurrected form, still bore the marks of his suffering. I suspect that will similarly be true for the church for quite some time, moving forward. We will still bear wounds.

But just as Jesus' wounds, though still evident post resurrection, did not define the totality of Jesus' resurrected being, neither will our pandemic wounds define the totality of the church's post-pandemic experience. That's important for us to remember! Indeed, new experiences of being church have come to life during the past two years and I pray we have the good sense to lean into them.

Those learnings were largely unexpected and certainly came unbidden, as do all gifts of grace! I pray that we treasure them as the precious gifts they are, gifts that may bear possibilities for renewed life and resurrection.

So wherever you are this Sunday, whether at church or at home, with family, or alone; I pray that your Easter might be enlivened by the living presence of the resurrected Christ.

May you know and believe that the Lord is risen, indeed, alleluia!

+ Michael