

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Nearly 2,000 years ago, the world changed. In a remote part of the mighty Roman empire, word began to spread that a poor Jewish carpenter and itinerant preacher had done the impossible: he had conquered death. Since those early times, the size and influence of Christianity has coronated kings and dethroned despots. It has spread to every continent and its members still seek out every quiet corner and every open field to tell the story of Jesus Christ.

Americans today are people who live in the moment, and to describe the impact of the Resurrection takes time and understanding that some are unwilling to give. Of course, Jesus conquered death, but of greater significance is that he conquered sin. Through his sacrifice, he paid our debt, brought on by disobedience, and made eternal happiness with him once again attainable. He did this as one of us, a human, our brother.

It doesn't matter whether you are wealthy or poor, native or immigrant, man or woman, ordained or lay. In Jesus' eyes, we were pearls of great value, and he willingly paid the price for our freedom with his life. If he could see the presence of God in each of us, and lay down his life, surely we can do no less.

Let us strive to make this Easter a better day in Idaho. Let us pause to look within ourselves and see what Jesus saw, the presence of God. Finally, let us look to our neighbor – wealthy or poor, native or immigrant, man or woman, ordained or lay – and see the same goodness in them that Jesus saw.

You see, my friends, of all the great mysteries in the church – including how God could come as a man and die for our sins – a wonderful part of our faith is no mystery at all. “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Have a joyous Easter. Yours in Christ,

Bishop Michael P. Driscoll