**An Easter Reflection –** *Br Alois of Taizé*

Christ Jesus, you are alive!
Death did not keep you in its power.
This amazing news overwhelms us.
You open a way forward
where everything seems closed…

Let us be carried forward
by the joy of the Resurrection.
To all of us Christ says:
“I am Risen. I am close to you.
I invite you to my joy.”

**Easter: the beginning of Glory -** *Karl Rahner*

Easter is not the celebration of a past event. The alleluia is not for what was: Easter proclaims a beginning which has already decided the remotest future. The resurrection means that the beginning of glory has already started…
The history of humanity, so we say when we celebrate Easter, has already reached its goal … in [Jesus] *the* representative of this whole history (in him and through him for the others)… just as the front of a procession which has reached the goal calls back with cries of triumph to those still marching: we are there, we have found the goal and it is what we had hoped it would be…
[In the Creed] we make the ultimate statement about it: I believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. I believe that the beginning of the glory of all things has already come upon us, that we, apparently so lost, wandering and seeking far away, are already encompassed by infinite blessedness. For the end has already begun. And it is glory.

**With God, evil never has the last word** – *Olivier Clément*

With God, evil never has the last word! God is stronger than evil! Here we can see the whole power of the Christian faith: there are no strong people and weak ones… there is only Christ, who is everywhere. He is the one who descended into hell, and he keeps on descending into our inner hell. And therefore, we are never lost, even if it sometimes feels as if we are. Yes, it is true that when we come into the light of God we discover our whole life with lucidity, and we find that every tear that we have been the cause of can become an inner hell for us; but it is also at that moment that Christ appears and that he puts himself for ever between hell and us: ‘This hell I have taken on myself. And so, what I give you is the love of the Father and nothing else.’

***From the Paschal Stichera – Orthodox tradition***It is the Resurrection Day!
Let us be radiant for this Feast
and let us embrace one another!
Let us call ‘Brethren’ even those who hate us,
and in the Resurrection,
forgive everything and let us sing:
Christ is risen from the dead!
By death he trampled death
and to those in the grave he granted life!

Litany of the Resurrection
[adapted from that of St John Henry Newman]

LORD, have mercy.
*Lord, have mercy*.
Christ, have mercy.
*Christ, have mercy*.
Lord, have mercy.
*Lord, have mercy*.
Christ, hear us.
*Christ, graciously hear us*.

God the Father of Heaven,                    *Have mercy on us*.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,                "
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, one God,

Jesus, Redeemer of mankind,               *Have mercy on us*.
Jesus, Conqueror of sin and Satan,                    "
Jesus, triumphant over Death,
Jesus, the Holy and Just One,
Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life,
Jesus, the Giver of grace,
Jesus, the Judge of the world,
You who laid down your life for your sheep,
Who rose again the third day,
Who showed yourself to your disciples,
Visiting your blessed Mother,
Appearing to Mary of Magdala while she wept,
Sending your angels to the holy women,
Comforting the Eleven,
Saying to them, Peace,
Breathing on them the Holy Spirit,
Confirming the faith of Thomas,
Committing your flock to Peter,
Speaking of the Kingdom of God,

We sinners turn to you *Hear us O Lord.*
That we may walk in newness of life *Hear us O Lord.*
That we may grow in the knowledge of You,              "
That we may grow in grace,
That we may ever have the bread of life,
That we may persevere unto the end,
That we may have confidence before You at your coming,
That we may behold your face with joy,
That we may be placed at your right hand at the judgment,
That we may have our place with the saints,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
*Spare us,*O *Lord*.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
*Graciously hear us,*O *Lord*.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
*Have mercy on us*.
Christ, hear us.
*Christ, graciously hear us*.
Lord, have mercy.
*Christ, have mercy*.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ is risen, Alleluia.
*He is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon, Alleluia*.