

# FAITH

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If you had to pick out a smell that you associate with this time of the year what would it be? Is it the dampness that comes with melting snow and the dirt and grass seemingly coming alive again? Is it your favorite spring flower that comes into bloom and brightens up your yard and heart? Is it the first breath of fresh air into your home when you first crack your windows open after the long winter season of cold and snow? What is it?

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I ask because one of the smells I often associate this season of the year with is that of Easter lilies which many churches display for their Easter Sunday services. These flowers, symbols of beauty and resurrection (while also being the bane of Easter morning for those with allergies), often bring to birth more than just the bloom at the end of a stem, they bring to birth something deep within us. They bring us to the moment of considering where we are, what does this life all mean and what is going to move through the next season of our lives.

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All of these things, and much more of course, are also meant to be encountered in this season of celebrating Christ's resurrection from the dead. On Easter Sunday millions of faithful people will gather across this world to celebrate that God's promises still continue to live on.

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They will remember that through God's raising Jesus from the dead we now live in the promises of the resurrection which mean that to each death our world seeks God's answer is life. Faithful people will again rejoice with the women at the tomb, the disciples locked in the upper room and the countless outsiders that Jesus reached in his life. People will gather together in their churches, in their homes and in their hearts to hear the wondrous story that God has

not abandoned us in our pain but has sought to redeem it. People will gather to say alleluia, Christ is risen!

Maybe in this way then we can look at all the reminders of spring or life around us in a new way. What if the chirping of birds returning from their winter sojourn brought us to call a long lost friend to see how they were? What if seeing the beauty of the sun rising in the morning caused us to seek the glory of God's son in the world? What if the fresh snow melt and rushing rivers brought about within us a rush to see God's love reflected more vibrantly in our river of life? What if we saw the resurrection not just in Easter lilies on a Sunday morning but in all the beautiful reminders God has placed within our world?

Easter is a time to look for the renewal of our whole world. The resurrection assures us that God's promises will and do prevail over the brokenness in our lives. Look around you these days. See the new birth of God's world springing forth and be reminded of God's love for you. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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