



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

## **Third Sunday of Easter**

April 14, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

### ***“Witness to the Risen Lord”***

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

A Blessed Third Sunday of Easter!

Easter Season is still upon us. Our joy of experiencing the Resurrection of Jesus lingers in everyone's mind and heart, especially when we gather to remember and feel His presence in the celebration of the Eucharist. His Resurrection magnifies His triumph over sin, evil, and death. At Mass, we relive and celebrate the mysteries of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

As we continue this Easter journey, we hear the testimonies of Jesus' appearances to His Disciples. Every time He appeared to them, they were all caught in fear, joy, amazement, wonder, and faith. Even before all these took place, He already assured them that He would rise from the dead after His Passion and Death. Of course, it was not easy for them to accept these words. They were so much afraid that they locked themselves up for fear of the Jews. After three days, Jesus appeared to them to let them know the truth and keep His promise. His appearances to them were moments to strengthen their faith in Him and be witnesses to all that He taught. Like any ordinary person, the disciples would look for proof to deepen their faith and probably needed more appearances that Jesus, indeed, was raised from the dead. His disciples came to believe in Him, and they became witnesses to the faith we have now. Jesus' statement in last Sunday's Gospel resounds clearly for us, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

The resurrection and eyewitness accounts that we hear from the disciples during this Easter Season are provided for us to deepen our faith in the Risen Lord, too. It is now our turn, as we have received the gift of faith at our baptism, to be witnesses to the Lord. We are called to be bearers of His words today. We are called to witness the truth. We are called to give life to His words of compassion and mercy. We do this by showing forgiveness, sharing our generosity, and working for justice and peace in this time. In this way, we provide meaning and new life to this word. Pope Francis calls and challenges all Christian faithful to bring the joy of the Gospel to the world.

At times, our faith is weak, and we lose our hope. We wonder and thread a different path, especially when we can hardly understand what is happening when life problems are overwhelming. Like Jesus, He continues to reveal Himself to us in many ways, assuring us of His continued presence. What we need to do is to be like His disciples, ready to embrace with a docile heart to listen and believe in Him. Confirming our faith in Him will make us His witnesses that can bring light, joy, and peace to this broken world we live in.

Keep the faith, always! Be a witness to Jesus!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual