



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“Strengthened by His Presence, Sent by His Love”

Every time the Risen Jesus appeared to His disciples, He found them overwhelmed by fear, amazement, confusion, and a fragile joy. Though He had already told them He would rise after His passion and death, their hearts struggled to hold onto His promise. They were so afraid that they locked themselves away, uncertain of what the future held. Yet on the third day, Jesus came to them, not to rebuke their fear but to stand in the midst of it. His presence became the proof they longed for, the reassurance that His words were true. Each appearance strengthened their faith and prepared them to become witnesses to all He had taught them.

Like them, we too often look for signs, for clarity, for something to hold onto. Yet Jesus speaks to us the same blessing He offered in last Sunday’s Gospel: *“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”* This is the blessing spoken over us today.

During this Easter Season, the resurrection stories and the disciples’ eyewitness accounts are not merely memories from long ago; they are gifts meant to deepen our faith in the Risen Lord. Through baptism, we have received this same faith, and now it is our turn to bear witness. We are called to carry His words into our world: to speak the truth, embody compassion, serve generously, forgive freely, and work for justice and peace. In doing so, we breathe new life into a weary and wounded world.

And we know how difficult it is to feel the joy of Easter when so many around us are suffering. We see illness, loss, and uncertainty. Many are separated from loved ones, and many are anxious about work, livelihood, and the future. We ourselves feel the weight of these days. Yet when we unite our suffering with the Lord’s own, something mysterious happens: our pain is not erased but held, and in that holding, it gains meaning. We discover that Jesus has not abandoned us. He lives within us, giving us courage when we falter, strength when we are tired, and hope when the road ahead feels unclear.

This is why our Easter joy can still be real. Not because life is easy, but because the Lord remains with us, faithfully and tenderly, no matter what.

Please know I am here, praying fervently for each of you. We walk this path together. May our Merciful Lord spare us further harm, sustain us in our trials, and restore our lives with renewed faith and a deeper sense of His nearness.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual