



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

The Resurrection of the Lord

April 5, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“The Risen Christ, Our Strength and Peace”

Even just remembering the events of Jesus’ life in Jerusalem during His Passion can make us feel tense, frightened, and restless. How much more overwhelming it must have been for Jesus Himself as He endured betrayal, denial, abandonment, and the crushing weight of suffering. His followers, too, faced deep uncertainty after He was laid in the tomb, unsure of what the future held. These moments were physically, emotionally, and spiritually unbearable. Yet, all of this happened so that the Scriptures could be fulfilled, and humanity could be redeemed through the sacrifice of Christ.

Today, as we reflect on our world, we feel echoes of the same fear and uncertainty. We see the war in Iran and the suffering of innocent people caught in violence they did not choose. We watch as communities here in Hawai’i are affected by the Kona Low storm, with severe flooding and damaged properties that threaten the safety of our Ohana. We carry the weight of countless tragedies worldwide, disasters, conflicts, and sorrows that seem to grow. It's easy to feel overwhelmed and wonder where hope can be found.

But the greatest truth of our faith is this: Jesus did not remain in the tomb. As He foretold, after three days He rose from the dead. When Mary of Magdala, Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved went to the tomb, they found the stone rolled away and the burial cloths left behind. Each reacted differently, but the beloved disciple's response stands out. The Gospel tells us, “He saw and believed.”

He saw only an empty tomb and folded burial cloths, no angels, no risen Christ standing before him. Still, that was enough. His heart recognized what his eyes could not yet see. His faith, shaped by everything Jesus had taught him, allowed him to believe in the Resurrection even amid confusion and fear. And that faith gave him the courage to proclaim the Good News, even when it meant facing resistance and sacrifice.

May the Passion of Christ teach us how to endure the trials and tribulations of our own time. May His Death remind us of His deep love for us and how closely He walks with us in our suffering. May His Resurrection strengthen our faith so that we, too, can see with the eyes of hope, even when the world feels dark, storms rage, or violence and tragedy shake our sense of peace.

And may His resurrection renew our commitment to share the Good News with all people. Our world longs for healing, compassion, and peace. When we live as witnesses to the Risen Christ, His message offers comfort to the fearful, strength to the weary, and light to those who feel lost.

Wishing you and your family a Blessed and Faith-filled Easter. May the Risen Lord keep you safe and fill your hearts with peace.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual