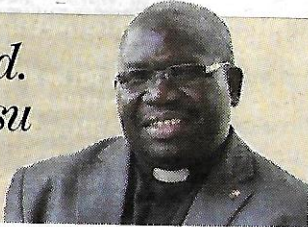


Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia: AN EASTER HOMILY

by Revd.
Ishanesu
Gusha



THE ANGLICAN CHAPLAIN FROM PALMA

On Easter day God conquered what was esteemed unconquerable.

All these events happened during the Holy Week and this explains why all the four gospels dedicate some chapters to this one week episode out of a three year ministry. The Jewish authorities thought that they had managed to silence a public nuisance while for the apostles the future is uncertain. All the prophecies about him rising on the third day have been forgotten and what dominates the public discourse is the crucifixion of the self-styled messiah. Others are still waiting to see if His prophecies were genuine. It was on the Sunday morning that the whole discourse surrounding his death changes as the message of His resurrection is first proclaimed by the women who had gone to see His tomb early in the morning. This is the story of Easter. It is a story about the fulfilment of God's promise to save humanity from the sin that has alienated it from God. Our liberation from sin is fully atoned for by his blood. This is the liberation that is ongoing and will find its full consum-

mation with His second coming. However, while we wait for His second coming we have the role of continuing with his ministry on earth. We are celebrating our Easter this year at a time when the battle with Covid 19 pandemic is almost won but with other challenges. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia is the latest shocking event which has resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and massive destruction of the country's infrastructure. People continue to ask serious theological questions about the love and care of God. The future and security of many citizens in conflict hotspots are not guaranteed. Families have been dispersed because of wars and other human-made crises. What keeps us ticking in such a difficult world? It is the message of hope that comes from the Easter story. Through His resurrection, Jesus conquered all the evil forces of the world that have stolen human freedom and dignity. Easter is the climax of our hope in the salvific acts of God. On Easter day God

conquered what was esteemed unconquerable. We might be in a situation that appears to be beyond redemption but we bear in mind that at Easter God demonstrated to us that there is no situation in life that is beyond redemption. He is the God who opened the way in the middle of the sea, the God that provided water from a rock, the God that provided manna in the desert and finally the God that conquered death on the cross. During this Easter period let us allow God to use us as agents of His ministry to the world. God's ministry to the world is very diverse and all of us can fit in it in our diverse callings. Christ is risen, He is risen indeed alleluia. I shall conclude with the Easter collect from the Book of Common Prayer:

Almighty God, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BROTHERS and sisters in Christ, a special time in the Christian journey is once again upon us. Bishop David Hamid, preaching at the Chrism Eucharist at St George, Madrid on the 11th April 2022, said the Holy Week is the busiest and Holiest week for Christians worldwide. Today we come to the climax of the Holy Week as we wait for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Last Sunday he had a triumphal entry in Jerusalem, cleansed the temple, arguing with the Pharisees and temple authorities in the temple, ate the last supper with his disciples, washing their feet before the last supper, was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, stood trial before Caiaphas, Herod and Pilate, was dragged to Golgotha, crucified between two robbers and eventually buried in an unused tomb by Joseph of Arimathea.