



# Easter Sunday

## ***An Easter Message***

*The following message for Easter Sunday was given by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston and president of the USCCB.*

Through Christ's passion, His burial in the tomb and His glorious resurrection, we come to realize the enormity of the Lord's sacrifice for us. We may feel unworthy of His love who paid so high a price for our salvation. Let us not be afraid. Let's allow ourselves to be taken—even seized—with Easter joy. As we proclaim on Easter Sunday, 'Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.'

In the Gospel of John, chapter 10, Jesus says the shepherd calls his own sheep by name, 'I am the Good Shepherd and I know mine.' In chapter 20, how much fear and doubt must have gripped Mary of Magdala as she stood by the tomb? There, it was Jesus who rescued Mary from her fears and darkness by calling her name. Listen carefully. Mary thought she had discovered the Risen Lord, but it was the Risen Lord who discovered her. Jesus calls out to each of us by name today as He did the very first Easter Sunday. His promise fulfilled. His word brings life, "I am the Good Shepherd and I know mine."

Jesus waits for you and me, embracing us in our moments of greatest need and desire. Welcome the love of God into your life. Share it those around you, especially the most vulnerable of our sisters and brothers. In this way, we proclaim with Mary, "I have seen the Lord." Sing joyfully, "the Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal." Happy Easter!

"Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult, let Angel ministers of God exult, let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!"

—excerpt from the Easter Proclamation

Read the full Easter Proclamation on USCCB.org at [bit.ly/1ZsR5of](http://bit.ly/1ZsR5of).

## ***Break Open the Tomb***

Lord of Easter's Promise,  
I live in faith of the Resurrection,  
but such is the nature of my faith  
that so much of me remains entombed.  
Break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my compassion, break open the tomb. Where I've buried my sense of mercy, break open the tomb. Where I've buried my humility, break open the tomb. Where I've buried my humanity, break open the tomb. Where I've buried my love for my Heavenly Father, break open the tomb. Where I've buried my sense of joy, break open the tomb. Where I've buried my willingness to forgive, break open the tomb.

Lord, in you I've found a Savior no grave can withstand.  
Help me to roll away this stone  
And find the miracle of new life  
That I may live more fully in your saving grace.

Amen

—CRS Prayer

