



**An Easter Message from Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad**

***“I shall not die, but I shall live and declare the works of the Lord.” Psalm 118: 17***

In the face of war, deepening injustice, and the erosion of human dignity, we proclaim: Christ is risen.

We proclaim the foundation of our faith from troubled Jerusalem - a land shaped by fear, loss, and uncertainty, and a land where death is no abstraction, but a daily reality. Yet here, where the weight of the cross is still felt, even the stones cry out to the glory of God, and the message of the resurrection refuses to be silenced.

Easter is the message of life that overcomes death, hope that overcomes despair, peace that overcomes war, renewal that overcomes devastation and love that stands in the face of hatred. This year, Jerusalem bears the testimony of resurrection alongside the weight of war, fear, and suffocation. Where the empty tomb once announced life, we now live under the shadow of violence. Yet we continue to hold fast to the message of the conquering Lamb who was slain, now lives, and calls us to life.

This we declare with the Psalmist: “I shall not die, but I shall live.”

This declaration rises from our wounded land, becoming not only a confession of faith but also a protest in the face of violence, oppression, and occupation.

Easter calls us to live our identity in the resurrected Christ. It calls us to a martyrdom of life: to speak truth in the face of injustice and to embody love where hatred and political interests seek to divide and dehumanize.

Due to the ongoing war, the streets of Jerusalem are unusually silent this year. Worshippers face restrictions; the Church of the Holy Sepulcher is closed. The cherished Palm Sunday and Holy Saturday celebrations are silenced. Despite this, our Easter song will rise above the sirens of war, and we will hear the voice of the Risen Lord declaring, “Peace be with you,” even in the face of closures, checkpoints, and the forces that seek to confine life.

Like the first disciples, we do not yet see clearly, nor do we fully understand what lies ahead. Yet we hold fast to the promise that death will not have the final word. Therefore, despite the devastating toll of war, the daily realities of occupation, the persistent settlers’ violence in the West Bank, the inhumane situation in Gaza, and the loss of innocent lives through decisions made far from the cries of the people, we remain committed to the way of the cross. We walk through Good Friday, grounded in the hope that we will again arrive at Easter dawn.

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in Jordan and the Holy Land*



الكنيسة الإنجيلية اللوثرية  
في الأردن والأراضي المقدسة

At that dawn, we proclaim what no power can silence: Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. We shall not die, but we shall live.

Easter is not only a proclamation; it is a responsibility.

To believe in the resurrection is to participate in it by standing with the oppressed, accompanying the suffering, and affirming that every human life bears the image of God.

We call upon the Church and all people of conscience to live the proclamation of Easter: do not allow the noise of war to silence the facts of injustice, nor the language of security to obscure acts of discrimination, nor fatigue to erode your commitment to human dignity.

From Jerusalem, the city of resurrection, we send this message to the world: life will prevail over death, light will overcome darkness, and love, costly, courageous, and faithful, will have the final word.

Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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