

## **Easter 2022 Message**

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In his great Easter sermon, St. John Chrysostom, born in the fourth century, has a line that I've memorized. It goes like this: "On the cross, hell took hold of a body and found that it had seized God."

In that sermon, John Chrysostom proclaims the end, the ultimate end of the power of sin and death over all of us, over creation, certainly over human life. And in a time when we are so inundated with scenes of depravity, destruction, the death of innocent victims throughout the world — especially in war-torn parts of the world — our Easter proclamation has a special urgency this year: that always death seizes human bodies, human persons, and discovers that there's a power at work in us quite beyond its capacity, death's capacity, to have the final word.

The Easter proclamation is there is no depth of suffering, no depravity, no violence, no sin— not even death—that can withstand the power of God. God has entered those realities completely on the cross and thus rendered them forever powerless ultimately, over all of life.

This year, I don't know about you, but I need to cling to that message of victory. I need to trust at deeper and deeper levels in the power of the Resurrection to overcome everything that would destroy love and life and human being. Give thanks with me that we have such a God who will not leave us to our own devices, that will not leave us in depths of suffering, that will not leave us even in the tomb.

Alleluia! Christ is risen, and we are risen with him.