

18.4.68  
13.4.72 ✓(Hoc Dies. (lab))  
B 58

"This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad." Alleluia

Happiness, gladness, rejoicing are for most human beings things that come and go and <sup>seldom</sup> ~~never~~ last <sup>for</sup> very long — not as long as sadness, sorrow, unhappiness. I'm talking about the high-points of happiness and the depths of sorrow, NOT about our ~~the~~ ordinary day-to-day life, which goes along quietly at a general level of either joy or contentment, or weariness and frustration — or somewhere in between these. The greatest joys <sup>most of us</sup> we experience from time to time come to an end all too soon — beauty fades, faces change; love develops or diminishes, music stops: and every day we go to bed and sleep, and tomorrow's road may be different. There comes a time for the greatest party to break-up: you destroy by trying to preserve it artificially. Simple physical exhaustion puts its own limits on the greatest human sorrow and joy. In other words, none of us can constantly sustain a high tensity of any extreme of human feeling or emotion, without breaking down as human persons. And in our present situation, this itself is a blessing, which keeps most of us from going mad. But still, the pull is downwards — it's easier, more common to be depressed than elated: there is more continuous pain, frustration, loneliness, suffering in the world than there is sustained rejoicing, happiness, gladness, lightness of spirit. What

else is the origin of this fact than the nature of man and his present situation, under sentence of death in a world of sinfulness and selfishness? The good news of Easter, the news (and it's something entirely new) that Jesus of Nazareth who lived and suffered and died is alive, has risen from death in his human body; this is a message of hope, a fact that alters the human situation, that points to the solution, that offers a meaning to human life and shows where its fulfilment lies. Christ's rising from death in his flesh doesn't do away with our sorrows and pain; but it allows us see their positive value. It doesn't do away with our present human limitations; but it shows us they're not permanent, that they will pass away for us, as for Him; that joy and happiness, beauty and love can be and for us please God will be permanent, lasting, without the threat of boredom or sadness we experience now because there is a limit to what the human spirit can take in this life. We find it so hard to believe this, to realise that Christ's resurrection means for us, for whom <sup>earthly</sup> His life was lived! We can rejoice on Easter Day, at Christmas... but to keep up the spirit of joy and hope and optimism is harder — harder than keeping up a spirit of sorrow, repentance, sadness, dawning heat and especially Holy Week. But we mustn't disconnect the two facets of what Christ has done for us.

Think over it a little now, listening  
to a simple adaptation of the old Diet  
the familiar Easter hymn - Rapture Good Lecture  
Queen of Heaven rejoice  
MUSIC / PRAYER

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in love and perfect human obedience to the father - his death AND RESURRECTION. // This world is too small with us - but it's those of us who've come to know Christ and the power of his resurrection who've got to bring the good news of joy and hope, through Christ, to our fellowmen. The late Martin Luther King, the day before he so tragically died, spoke of having been to the mountain. He had a vision to share, an experience to fire his enthusiasm. That's what the celebration of Easter should do for all of us - if only we were open and receptive enough to get the message, to see the vision. Everyone needs the incentive of some experience of joy, of some ideal, some vision to enable them to live humanly and with some meaning in life. That is why the Church celebrates Easter, the historical event which alone gives full meaning to life and which has opened the way for the fulfillment of human life in the life of God himself who made us and the world in which we live. That is why the Church prolongs the celebration of Easter, even though we humanly find it so hard to keep up so long with the spirit of joy and gladness this event calls for: "This day was made by the Lord" - a day that for Christ and for us has no ending because, unless we reject Him, sinfulness sorrow and death has no more fatal hold over us. Let us rejoice and be glad in the Lord always - show our gratitude to Him in the hope as joy we give to others.

Now Response Letter  
Not till At length since He died by sin: but having died once He lives with divine life"