



## New Apostolic Church USA

*The Peace of the Risen One* – Written by Apostle Thomas Schmidt  
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Blessed Eastertide - the peace of the Risen One is with you! His peace is far above anything that had been available prior. This is the Risen One who was victorious over death, crushed the sin of this world, and defeated the evil one. And now the Risen Lord wants to give His peace to you as He did His disciples. *“Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”* (John 20:19)

The peace of the Risen One is the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise, *“My peace I give to you...”* (John 14: 27). Whenever you feel “locked down”, behind a physical, spiritual, or emotional “closed door”, the Risen One is present with His peace when you open the door to Him in prayer. Fear and anxiety are put in their place. Now you have sufficient clarity of heart and mind to allow the Holy Spirit to steer your thoughts and deeds on *“...the way, the truth, and the life...”* that Jesus offers us.

Christ’s sacrifice offers a peace that only He can give! The sacrifices of the Old Testament were to atone for sins. However, Christ’s eternally valid sacrifice offers the forgiveness of your sins, as in the erasing of sins. God chooses to forget your sins, and you are then a new and clean page before God. Not only that, Christ’s sacrifice opens a path to be ultimately released from your propensity to sin. This is when you will finally be redeemed from the “wages” of sin, which is death and eternal separation from God. All of this certainty is offered when we hear the words, “I proclaim unto you the glad tidings; in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, your sins are forgiven. The peace of the Risen One abide with you! Amen.”

We are experiencing a unique tribulation in our lifetime right now. Jesus Christ knew this already beforehand, *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33). You can treasure, more than ever, the assurance given in the peace of the Risen One following the Absolution. The Lord confirms that He has not rejected you despite your sins, and that His love for you remains unchanged. Although Satan may succeed in causing you to fall, he cannot separate you from the love of God. The power of this assurance enabled His disciples to emerge from hiding behind closed doors and become powerful instruments of His peace.

“Christ makes free” from fear, and enables you to become the soul He created you to be. Every time you hear the proclamation of forgiveness of sins and the peace of the Risen One, you are raised up and sent forth as His disciples today.

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The Prayer of St. Francis beautifully expresses,

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...

Grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned...”

The Lord Jesus opened His disciples’ understanding of His kingdom on their 40-day journey to His ascension. This year’s Eastertide opportunity: clearer “20/20” understanding in faith and relationships thereby sharing a “foretaste of the kingdom of God” (Pentecost 2018). Our Savior, as promised, *“will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven”* (Acts 1:11). When He does come, we want to be those who have made themselves ready to bring His peace to all souls in the Kingdom of Peace!