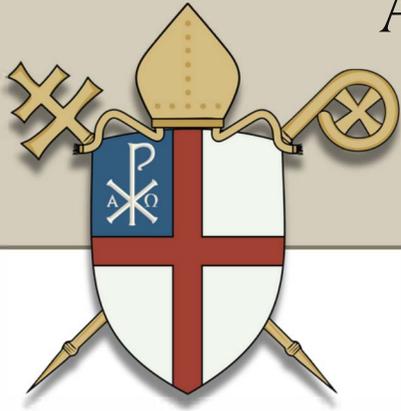


ANGLICAN PROVINCE OF AMERICA



The Most Reverend Chandler Holder Jones, SSC
-Presiding Bishop-

PRESIDING BISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE 2026

As we commemorate the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ during Holy Week, and we celebrate His glorious Resurrection during Easter Week, we profess that Jesus Christ lives. Jesus Christ reigns. Jesus Christ is Lord. *Christus vincit! Christus regnat! Christus imperat!* – Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands. ‘Our Lord Jesus Christ, which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen’ (I Timothy 6.15-16).

We are reminded in this holy season that Our Lord’s real human death is unrepeatable and has resulted in His ultimate physical glorification and immortality: because Christ destroyed death by His own death, to which He was freely and voluntarily subject, His risen humanity, body and soul, is forever victorious over death. Now for all eternity Christ lives, Christ conquers, Christ reigns – and we shall live, conquer, and reign because of Him, in Him, and through Him and for Him.

We proclaim to you that Jesus Christ, who was dead on Friday, is alive in a Body on Sunday. Christ is risen from the dead. If you are baptised into His Body, and if you believe that He died on Friday to forgive your sins, then you will rise from the dead. We need not fear death. Jesus Christ has solved the problem of death by rising from His Tomb.

Christ has destroyed the power of sin through death, and, thus united to Him in His death, we shall overcome sin and live forever in Him. No longer should we fear death, for Christ has overthrown death. He has conquered our own death and will manifest that victory in our own bodies in our own resurrection on the Last Day. The Christian, the one found in Jesus, already possesses the victory!

‘For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s’ (Romans 14.8). ‘Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, Jesus also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage’ (Hebrews 2.14-15).

The Easter Liturgy allows us both to witness and participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Consecration of the Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ, and the offering of the Eternal Sacrifice of Calvary and the Empty Tomb made present on our Altars. The Church extends us the opportunity to make our own intentions and to offer them in body, soul, and spirit with Our Lord in the offering of the Eucharist. As we cross ourselves in Church, kneel, stand, sit, and offer our adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, we enter the Holy Sepulchre and encounter the Risen Lord. In beholding the Mass, and receiving its fruit in our Easter Communions, we may say with Blessed Lancelot Andrewes, ‘It is finished and done, so far as in our power, Christ our God, the Mystery of thy dispensation. For we have held remembrance of thy Death, we have seen the figure of thy Resurrection, whereof graciously vouchsafe to make us all partakers in the world to come.’

God bless you!

The Most Reverend Chandler Holder Jones, SSC

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