

**Easter Sunday March 27, 2005**  
**"I Have Seen the Lord."**

Introduction

***Alleluia, Christ is Risen***  
***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia***

George MacDonald, said—and I want to echo him  
*"I speak after the poor fashion of a man lost in what is too great for him."*  
But by faith, here is what we say—

**Alleluia. Christ is Risen.**  
**The Lord is risen indeed Alleluia**

And to that, the deepest theological evaluation may be "Wow."  
Or, Kelsey—"Whoa!"

For Life

It is our Easter joy that despite all the dismay and sickness and sin and disfiguring mockery of death itself—  
Life is greater than death

This holy week, on Good Friday, I had a sort of upwelling pressure in my chest—  
everything was poignant, and so terribly terribly fragile  
No doubt it was something of the spirit of the day—  
I was struck suddenly by a truth that may be obvious to everyone but me...  
All the things we justly thank the Lord for—  
his forgiveness, his healings, his victory over evil—  
these things are not ends in themselves but a means of grace to bring us all the way into Life  
Jesus came to forgive our sins, so we could live!  
Jesus came to heal and change us, so we could live!...  
Jesus came to die, so we could live!  
Jesus came that **"they might have life, and have it more abundantly..."**  
So Easter is the Celebration of Life  
e.e. cummings:

*"This is the birthday of life and of love  
and of the gay great happening illimitably earth,  
of everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes."*

Today we celebrate the goodness, the dearness, the everlastingness of Life.

Who Is This Risen Lord

--By our faith in our Risen Lord, we affirm that Life is no illusion from which we will awaken in some Disneyland of diaphanous spirits.  
--By our faith in our Lord of Life, we know that *"Life means earnestly and it means well"*. Browning  
--By our faith in our Risen Jesus we vow to keep faith with Life, as He did to the very bitter end on that Day we call Good Friday.

--And we will remember Jesus when He was with us:  
How he loved weddings, and little children, and the lilies of the field, and sparrow  
even as he falls  
How He loved the City on the Hill that cast Him out, and the village by the lake  
He loved the carpentry, the sound of the chisel and the scent of the cut wood  
wood and the smoothness of the shaped boards of a table or a roof over his  
head.  
He loved life so much that He wept at the Death of Lazarus  
He loved life, even on the rough wood of the Cross, He loved life—believe it,  
believe that He loved life.

His glorious joyous relentless love calls us and brings us to life,  
to Redeemed Life, Eternal Life, Life with Him .

And when we ourselves rise to it —we will recognize that New Life--new creation,  
new heaven, new earth  
We will recognize as well as wonder at it.  
For it will partake of all that is most precious to us here  
—and all of this, all of this is Life, abundant life.  
By this life, with all its pitfalls and sorrows, by this life we will recognize and  
rejoice in the Life to come.  
That is what He says to us, The resurrected yet recognizable Jesus  
This is what He says to us, breaking bread and saying, “Cast your nets deeper.”  
This is what He shouts to us from the shore, cooking breakfast for His friends  
This is what He whispers, entering the upper room and our hearts: “Peace be  
with you...”

We Have Seen the Lord and Through Him We Have Seen Life

Our Lord is risen today—and shows us what we always somehow really knew  
Life is Life forever, and death is the doorway whose portals will swing open to  
such a life as only life could dream of.

And who will welcome us? Even the Risen Lord, the Lord of Life, Jesus Christ  
our companion, our brother, our Life in this world and in the world to come.

**Alleluia Christ is risen  
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia**