



Reflection from Ben Babaran

In the past two years, we have masked up, locked ourselves in, and socially isolated afraid of the virus Covid-19 and its variants. In a similar way, the disciples locked themselves up for fear of the Jews who mocked, scourged, and crucified their master and Lord, Jesus. A week ago, we celebrated the Resurrection where Jesus unlocked the chains of death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus goes through locked doors and deadbolts to appear to the disciples with the greeting "Peace be with you!" This calming greeting of our risen Lord is what the fearful disciples needed. The same reassuring greeting is given to us today as we face many troubling events. Moreover, to dispel our doubt, Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit as He commissions us.

Jesus asks us to feel the nail marks in His hands and the wound in His side – to detest Russia's invasion of Ukraine; to mourn those who have died and are dying in the war; and to lament the death of Manuel Guzman.

These troubling events can shake our profound faith in our merciful God. However, Jesus always comes "eastering" in us. He steps into our closed lives, closed hearts, closed minds unexpected, uninvited, and sometimes even unwanted to offer peace and breathe new life. Life and peace are resurrection realities. They may not change the circumstances of our world today but they certainly enable us to master our fears and live through these circumstances.

Peace be with you! May we give forgiveness, compassion and mercy throughout the Easter season and always.

Blessings,

Ben