

Remember yesterday? Good Friday. Darkness. Death. Grief and loss. Disorientation. Panic and fear. Sadness and sorrow.

Now through the power of God's faithful love, we experience a complete and total transformation. Now we have light and life, peace and joy, beauty and hope. No longer tears, but songs of praise. We no longer shrink and cower in fear. Now we are open, standing tall, smiles in our hearts and on our faces.

We don't have words to express the fullness of what we are experiencing. We know something deep and profound is different. It will take a long while for us to ponder and discover what it means that God has raised up Jesus who was dead....that God will raise up our loved ones who have died and are now alive....that God will raise us up one day.

Look around and see the beauty, the life, the light, the color. Everything speaks of the mystery we are celebrating tonight. Death is powerless over resurrected life. Sin is vanquished by God's mercy. Darkness vanishes when confronted by the light of Christ.

Like the Easter lily, open up and let the light of the Risen Christ shine in and through us. We are saved! We are transformed. All because Jesus has been raised from the dead!