



Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

After holding our “Alleluias” throughout the Lenten Season, we are now able to say “Alleluia”! After the Great Opening Acclamation found in the first Easter liturgy:

“Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
The Lord is Risen indeed,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!”

The Great Opening Acclamation will continue to be said at the beginning of each Eucharist Service or devotional from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost. The Great Opening Acclamation of Alleluias brings to a close the unfolding drama of Lent and Holy Week. Proclaiming “The Lord is Risen!” not only releases us from the tension of withholding our “Alleluias” and the generalized tension between Lent and Easter, but it also marks the beginning of our “Eastertide Season” which is also called “The Great Fifty Days of Easter”.

Since the first centuries, the Church has traditionally celebrated an Eastertide Season from Easter Sunday until the Day of Pentecost during a fifty-day period. During this time, we celebrate the wondrous works of Christ that have led us to redemption, we give praises and we marvel his Holy Name! We rejoice that he has “made us worthy to stand before Him” as found in the words of Rite II, Eucharistic Prayer B (BCP, 368) used throughout the Eastertide Seasons. The Eastertide Season is a special time of rejoicing, celebration, thanksgiving and the particular use of redemptive liturgies. The Great Fifty Days of the Eastertide Season is one big “Alleluia”!

During the remaining time of this “stay-at-home” period, let us joyfully decorate our “home altars”, have celebrations, feast on special foods, sing songs of joy and praise, listen to beautiful music, embrace the Arts that celebrate life, read inspirational and uplifting works and say “Alleluia”! as many times possible throughout this season. God’s blessings upon your celebrations of Easter throughout the Great Fifty Days of Easter!

Along with my previously published list of recommendations, this week I will add: *As Easter People, celebrate Easter – Alleluia!*

- “Keep calm and carry on.”
- “Take heart, do not be afraid.”
- Pray for protection, healing and restoration.
- Fortify yourself with spiritual readings and study.
- Stand firm in our faith.
- Reach out to those in need.
- Allow your hearts and homes to be a temple of God.
- Prepare a place for a sacred space.
- As Easter People, celebrate Easter – Alleluia!

May the Peace of the Lord that passes all understanding and circumstances of this life be with you!

Fr. Terry †