

Devotion Week of April 17, 2022 – First Week of Eastertide
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He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24

We have celebrated the resurrection and in the weeks after Easter we must ask – what now? What does it mean that Jesus died for me? 1 Peter says it well – by his wounds he has healed us – from sorrow, from illness, from separation, from fear. Jesus’ wounds are our healing; his death is our salvation; his resurrection is new life for us who are healed. We have ended the Lenten journey to death on a cross, but the journey is not yet complete. Because now we must acknowledge that we have been healed by his resurrection so that we can live into righteousness.

Sometimes that’s hard to do – “righteousness” is a big word that can mean many things. But in its simplest form, it just means doing the right thing -- believing that doing the right thing is what God wants us to do with our lives, once we acknowledge that Jesus died for us. Easter is a day of renewal and rejoicing, and for us it is a new beginning to live “rightly.”

If we remember Jesus’ teachings and his love for us, it makes it easy to live with care and love for each other. In this season of Eastertide, which continues until the Day of Pentecost, 50 days from Jesus’ resurrection, let us remember to rejoice for Jesus’ sacrifice for us. Let us be Easter followers, dying to sin and living to righteousness.

Jeanne