

Darkness and Light

Lenten 2026

After the storm, the rainbow appears,
and after the darkness, the light;
after the sorrowful valley, the lofty mountain—
the face of Jesus shines...

The Holy Gospel according to Luke tells us that on the afternoon of that Friday of crucifixion, the earth was covered in darkness:

*"From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land, for the sun stopped shining... Then Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!' And when He had said this, He breathed His last."
(Luke 23:44-46).*

The account of the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ presents us with a deeply striking moment. In broad daylight, after a morning marked by the suffering of the Master, who carried the heavy cross under the burning sun and the scourging of His tormentors, the sun ceased to shine. Darkness fell over all the land.

This was not an ordinary phenomenon, but a profoundly spiritual sign. These darknesses may be understood as the weight of the world's sin, the pain of abandonment, and the apparent silence of God the Father.

There, on the cross, Christ bore our guilt, our shame, and the deepest darkness of our existence. In that climactic moment, Jesus cried out:

"My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

Good Friday reminds us that there are moments in life when everything seems to grow dark: situations without answers, pain without explanation, and prayers that seem unheard. Yet even amid our darkness, God is not absent. He is still at work, even when we cannot perceive it.

And then...

"Very early... the sun had risen" (Mark 16:2)

The light of the dawn on Resurrection Sunday is not merely a narrative detail, it is a theological proclamation: death did not have the final word, pain was not the end of the story, and darkness could not overcome the One who said, "I am the Light of the world."

Christ is risen!

The light that illuminated the empty tomb on that Resurrection Sunday is the same light that now illuminates our lives. It is the sign of victory over sin, triumph over death, renewed hope, and new life in Christ.

The cross and the resurrection are not only events of the past, they are also our story. All of us, without exception, have walked through Fridays of darkness and pain, Saturdays of waiting, and, by the grace of God, Sundays of great light and hope. Darkness never has the final word. As the apostle whom Jesus loved wrote:

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

In this season of Lent, let us remember: the same God who allowed the darkness of that Friday of crucifixion is the God who brought forth the light of Resurrection Sunday. The cross reveals His infinite love, and the resurrection His glorious power.

After the darkness... the light always shines...



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