

Jesus' resurrection, Fresco in Turku Cathedral.

CHRIST - ALWAYS AND EVERYWHERE

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6

The women who came to Jesus' tomb to mourn him were surprised. The stone at the entrance to the tomb had been rolled away. Jesus' body was not where it had been a few days before. The sight of a radiant being speaking the above words to the women did not alleviate their confusion. The women's experience started a series of events that led us to celebrate the empty tomb two thousand years later.

The resurrection of Jesus is celebrated because then death lost its firm grip on created reality. The end of life, bound by time and place, is not an absolute end. In the resurrection of Jesus, his body was freed not only from the bonds of death, but also from the bonds of time and place. Jesus could no longer be located in a specific place and was no longer bound to a specific time. Thanks to the resurrection, Jesus is always and everywhere present.

Again this year, Christians around the world worship their risen Lord. He himself is present everywhere. No natural or man-made boundaries can stop him. He can even enter behind closed doors. He is present in every moment, throughout the millennia, and that is why He is close to you even now, as you read these lines.

As the risen Lord, regardless of time and place, Jesus is already in tomorrow. Whatever our thoughts may be about the future, we can trust in the presence of Jesus in all the days of our lives to come.

Happy Easter!

Tapio Luoma Archbishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland