

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

Joy Inexpressible and Full of Glory

1 Peter 1:3–4, 8–9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ... Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Peter wrote these words to Christians who had never seen Jesus in the flesh. They hadn't walked with Him on dusty roads or watched Him heal the sick. They hadn't stood at the foot of the cross or peered into the empty tomb. And yet, Peter says, they loved Him. They believed in Him. And they rejoiced with a joy that was "inexpressible and filled with glory."

That is your joy too. Through Holy Baptism, you have been born again to a living hope. Not a wishful-thinking kind of hope, but a sure and certain hope anchored in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. You are an heir of an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading — kept in heaven for you by God's own power.

The sorrows of this life are real. Peter doesn't pretend otherwise. He acknowledges that for a little while, we may be grieved by various trials. But these trials cannot define us, because our identity and our future are secured by something far greater — the risen Christ who holds us fast.

This is the Easter joy that carries you not just through this Easter season, but through your whole life and on into eternity. It is a gift from God, given freely, received by faith. Whatever your trials, whatever your afflictions, you have a joy that is greater. And one day, when Christ returns, that joy will be made complete and will never end.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to have a "living hope"? How is that different from ordinary hoping?
2. Peter describes an inheritance that is "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading." How does that compare to the things we often pursue in this life?
3. How can you cultivate this "inexpressible joy" in your daily life, even during ordinary or difficult days?

Prayer

Blessed God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Your great mercy You have given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Your Son. When the trials of this life press in, fix our eyes on the inheritance You have stored up for us in heaven. Fill us with joy that is inexpressible and full of glory — joy that will sustain us all our days and into eternity. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Family Action Item

Gather your family and celebrate the Easter season! Share a special meal, dessert, or treat together. Before you eat, read 1 Peter 1:3–9 aloud and have each family member share one thing that gives them joy about being a Christian. Close by singing or reading a verse of a favorite Easter hymn together.

