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## Easter Letter 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the darkness of the Easter Vigil, the Church sings over the Paschal candle: “May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star; the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death’s domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever.” (*Exsultet*, 7<sup>th</sup> century)

In a wonderful way, this ancient song of Holy Saturday links the carrying of the lighted Paschal Candle into the dark hall of the church to the natural symbolism of the sunrise that will follow on Easter morning. The arrival of the day will certainly outshine the glow of the candle that burned so brightly in the night.

Anyone who has participated in the Easter Vigil knows how much light the Paschal candle gives out all by itself in the darkness and how that warm light is then intensified by the many little tapers we kindle from it. Even so that illumination does not compare with the bright light of the sun on Easter morning.

Our celebration of Easter reminds us then that a new and “peaceful light” came into our world when Christ came back “from death’s domain” but that the world is still on its way to the Day of Resurrection. The flame of faith that Jesus has enkindled in our hearts and minds is bringing a great light into the world and scattering the darkness.

May the endless alleluias of the fifty days of this Easter Season encourage us to share the beautiful light and serene joy of our faith to people and circumstances around us. We already share in the victory of Christ’s Resurrection and the Risen Lord is with us to help us combat the darkness and help others to know the love and freedom God gives.

I wish you all a very blessed Easter and pray that the Risen Lord may bless each of you with new life and radiant Easter joy!

The Lord is Risen! Alleluia! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Sincerely in Him,

*+ Stephen A. Hero*

✠ Most Rev. Stephen A. Hero  
Bishop of Prince Albert