



Easter letter 2026

“On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the

Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” (John 20,19)

The first words that the Risen Lord addresses to his disciples after his Passion are an invitation to peace: *Shalom!* *“Peace be with you.”* These words are addressed to those who, at the time of the Passion, had fled—some of whom had denied him, others had betrayed him. But the words Jesus speaks to them are far more than a mere wish: they are a gift of peace.

The peace of the Lord is a gift, for it springs from the certainty that we are loved and forgiven, accepted just as we are, with all our contradictions and weaknesses, just as Jesus did with his own. But the peace of the Lord is also a mission, a daily choice, and a way we should embody in our relationships, our words, and our actions.

These are also the first words that Pope Leo XIV addressed to the crowd gathered in St. Peter’s Square immediately after his election. We know how necessary and precious the mission of peace is in this time, to defuse words and tear down the walls of hatred and violence. An urgent task for all, and especially for the disciples of Jesus.

We too, in our Faith and Light communities, feel the desire to respond to this call, so that we may be, in our own time, peacemakers, beyond the differences and distances that arise between us.

Renew within us the gift of your peace, Lord, and make us men and women of peace and reconciliation.

Happy Easter!

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International chaplain

