



Easter message 2024

When looking at this year's picture, it is difficult to believe in the resurrection. Other images come to the fore in our minds. Images of today's reality, when we think of the conflicts and wars, of the effects of climate change caused by us, of the greed and excess that is widespread everywhere, of all the unnecessary power games and demonstrations, and all the other things ...

These are images full of cruelty and horror, images of hopelessness, images of abandonment, images of powerlessness.

But don't we encounter the same mood in these images that accompanied the people in the picture above in the same or a similar way? When the women went to the grave, they were just as dejected, feeling abandoned and uprooted. They tried to counter the horrific reality with traditional actions. Something to help them get over this difficult time of grief and hopelessness.

And then they reach the end of their journey and it hits them right in the heart: the grave is empty, and the stone has been pushed aside. Grief and hopelessness are now joined by bewilderment. The body, the last relic of a happy time, has been stolen, taken away ...

Even Jesus' hastily summoned companions found the tomb empty, just as the women had said.

And in all this chaos comes the message: "Why are you weeping? - Who are you looking for?"

Suddenly there is the realization: the one who was believed dead is not dead! He is alive - he is in us and with us. And at the same time, we are commissioned to carry this message further.

Now it is up to us to spread the good news, to pass it on, to give people new courage and hope. We can overcome hopelessness by believing in this Jesus and in the love of God.

This message also means: we can do something, we can make this world a better place. We can end wars, end hunger, overcome hatred and put a stop to greed and excess. We can also counter and mitigate climate change through targeted measures. There was and is no talk of all this being easily possible. But we must be courageous and take the first steps. Just like the women and men at the empty tomb after their incredible experience. Then we can join in the call together:

„He is risen - yes, he is truly risen ...“

With this in mind, have a happy and blessed Easter

The General Committee of the ICDS