

## 2021 Easter Message from the Presiding Bishop



What a difference a year can make! Last year halfway through Lent we were confronted with the death threat of the coronavirus (COVID-19). We had no idea what this would mean and how it would affect every aspect of our lives. Early on, we were told of the grave dangers of meeting in large groups or even small groups which meant curtailing our usual church activities. Most of our churches in the APA did comply with the warnings and we did our best to help control the spread of the coronavirus. As we are slowly emerging from this pandemic a year later, and as the vaccine has become more and more available in our Country, we see people slowly returning to church services and other normal activities.

Last year we had the dream that by Easter 2020, we would be returning to normal life once again. That dream was shattered. Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday our churches for the most part were empty and the Masses were live-streamed over the internet. We received Holy Communion using special forms for receiving Spiritual Communion while the services were live on our computers and smartphones. We made the best of a bad situation. The positive thing about the live-streaming was the number of people who tuned into the services who probably would never have thought about going to church.

Last year I said, “This will certainly be a Holy Week and Easter we will not soon forget.” I say that again this year for different reasons. This time we pray it will be a welcoming back celebration to many who have been unable for health reasons to leave their homes. It is my prayer that this Holy Week and Easter will be a grand celebration, within the restrictions that each state may have imposed, and we will be renewed in our hearts and minds to serve our Lord and the cause of the Gospel more faithfully than ever. I pray that as we meet together later this summer for our Synods, that everyone who is able will be there for the special events scheduled. This will be a “historic” Synod by all measures. This is the Synod when I will be retiring as both the Ordinary of the DEUS and Presiding Bishop and I will be saying my farewells to all. As a parting wish, I pray all of our parishes and missions will do their best to help complete the goal of the 2021 Lenten Appeal and support our new Diocesan and Provincial leadership. Over the years both foreign and domestically this has been a wonderful ministry to reach many with the Message of Salvation found in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Have a blessed Easter Day and Eastertide,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Walter H. Grundorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

The Most Rev. Walter H. Grundorf, D.D.  
Presiding Bishop, Anglican Province of America