

OSTERN

Veröffentlichung der Evangelischen Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz

anders

EASTER different
Publication of the
Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia

Easter Sunday
12 April 2020

Bischof Dr. Christian Stäblein

Evangelische Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz

Dear Sirs,
dear sisters and brothers,

There has never been such a Holy Week or Easter. No matter how you draw historical comparisons or maybe not. This Easter will be different: without traveling, without much togetherness, without the hello on the walks. Now this is probably the easiest to cope with, we know why we do without it. Heavier, much heavier to bear for many is the great concern for their economic existence. Finally, in the centre: the worry about the virus, the bearing with the sick, with the dying. In there now we celebrate Good Friday and Easter. What does that mean? God knows the crisis. He knows fear, our fear. Dying.

Knowing no way out, seeing no way out. This is the memory of Good Friday. God knows our doubts, our despair. He don't run away.

Instead, he reconciles. A big word, no doubt: reconciling. Do you know that longing for good news these days? For reconciliation with fear? Reconciliation with all that drives us apart. Stay together, at a distance, there for each other. I thank all those who do this these days at the cash register in the shop, and in care, and in the ICU. And in the emergency childcare.

And Easter? It shows that death is not the ultimate, that we don't have to look for the meaning in it, and that we don't have to give it a meaning that it doesn't have. I hear so many interpretations, so many explanations, why and wherefore the Corona virus, that it teaches and shows us this or that, how we should change our lives, and what all has to change. It may be, yes, it may well be that a lot has to change in our lives, that we are encouraged to make many a good change of direction, yes, to turn back. But Easter tells me first of all: Let us not give death this power, that it determines the meaning of life. Let us not give the power to a virus to determine the meaning of our lives. Life is stronger, the longing for life goes on, God calls to us: You will live. You will be free.

What an Easter this year. What an Easter walk in the mind and heart with this promise from God. What a call that God makes loud in us. In church it always sounds like this: The Lord is risen! This will be valid at the door of the church, everywhere in the world, that will be true for your heart and mine.

I wish you Happy Easter!

Christian Stäblein