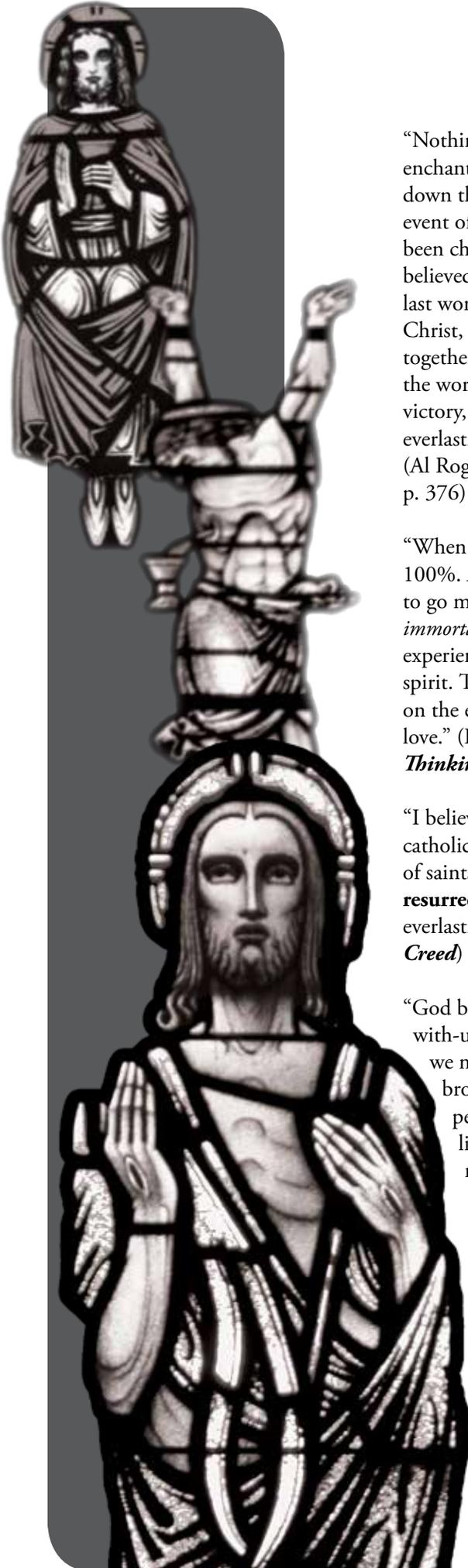


REFLECTIONS FOR EASTER



“Nothing in all the world has so enchanted and haunted [humankind] down through the centuries as has the event of Easter. Whole civilizations have been changed because [people] have believed that death does not have the last word. They have clung to the Risen Christ, and he has clung to them, and together they have reshaped the hopes of the world. There is forgiveness, there is victory, there is love and courage and an everlasting future. This is Easter!” (Al Rogness; *The Word For Every Day*, p. 376)

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“When you kick the bucket, you kick it 100%. All of you. There is nothing left to go marching on with... The idea of *immortality of the soul* is based on the experience of [humankind’s] indomitable spirit. The idea of the *resurrection* is based on the experience of God’s unspeakable love.” (Frederick Beuchner; *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*, p. 41)

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“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, **the resurrection of the body**, and the life everlasting.” (Article III of *The Apostles’ Creed*)

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“God became flesh, Emmanuel, God-with-us, our brother-in-arms, so that we might claim for ourselves our brotherhood and sisterhood with all people. That is the story of Jesus’ life and ministry, his death and resurrection, the story of our salvation. The heart of this story is that in and through Jesus, God wanted to share not only our life, but our death. Jesus’ *death* is the most radical expression of God’s desire to fully be God-with-us. Jesus’ *resurrection* is the most radical expression of our human desire to be fully us-with-God.” (j.r. christopherson; *Word and World*)

“Only because of Jesus’ resurrection, namely, because this event is the beginning of the end of death that faces all men, can one speak of God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ. Without the event of Jesus’ resurrection the ground would be pulled-out from under theological statements about God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ. [Easter is the foundation of the Christian faith.]” (Wolfhart Pannenberg; *Jesus – God and Man*, p.129)

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“Resurrection is the ultimate declaration of God’s grace. It’s not natural. It’s not automatic. It’s wholly dependent upon the faithfulness, forbearance and love of God. And just for that reason I am able to sleep at night.” (Douglas John Hall; *Why Christian? For Those On The Edge of Faith*, p. 174)

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“[The medieval mystic, Oetinger along with Martin Luther, observed that:] ‘Corporeality is the end of the ways of God’” (Paul Tillich; *The History of Christian Thought*, 262)

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“The Buddha [and Mohammad] gave us their teaching; but Jesus gave us his life” (A.N. Whitehead; *Religion in the Making*, 57).

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“[Jesus’ resurrection ultimately means this:] Nothing in the world can hurt us anymore... The great surpassing fact is that the world which killed him is also [finally God’s] world in which God raised him from death.” (Joseph Sittler; *Evocations of Grace*, p. 34)

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“Death be not proud
Though some have called thee mighty
and dreadful, for thou art so...
Why swell’st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake
eternally, And death shall be no more;
Death, thou shalt die.” (John Donne;
“*Holy Sonnets*” X)