

EASTER 1951

Easter is a wonderful feast. Coming as it does after the Lenten period of penance and the more distressing acts of the pageant of Holy Week, Easter fills us with joy and optimism, reaffirms our faith in Christ's divinity and His limitless power over the forces of Nature, over life and death itself.

The sun that will rise in the east and brighten the hallowed spot in Jerusalem on this Easter morn will be blurred by the clouds of war and war-scares; by dark shadows of pessimism and disillusionment; by black darts of indifference; by blankets of scorn and hate which block all light from the windows of many hearts in the world. This Easter, when the God of peace comes to prove His identity, the world is standing on its head with its feet shaking at the skyscrapers, and is too engrossed in mundane affairs to remark the dramatic figure walking in the morning sun. The East is allied again the West. And the West is rotting in its polished economic barrel. War is expected soon and men have lost all hope in the Millennium. Hearts are heavy from disillusionment and seek refuge in the idle myth of the Easter Bunny. The Resurrection, the greatest event in world history, will be mentioned only in churches.

This picture is certainly not an ideal one. Nor does it indicate the optimism that the Resurrection evokes in the Christian heart. The risen Christ is raised up, 'to draw all things' to Himself; He stands on a timeless Rock calling all souls into the fold, appealing for trust in Him. Will we heed Him? Will the West itself, professedly Christian, espouse Him as the guide of all policy—personal, social, national, and international alike? As matters stand today it is doubtful; a complete change will not come overnight, if at all. Yet we should not be dismayed. For we who believe in the God who conquered Death, are called to greater zeal and more effective action that we may convince men to raise their heads from the black muck and look up to see the Saviour. Easter 1951, then, provides us with a challenge.