

# what Easter means to mankind

IN THE MIDST of these troubled times we live in, Easter comes with hopeful meaning. This holy feast goes back 1,900 years to another moment of utter despair and to a world situation similar to our own. The Roman colossus sent its army of occupation into one satellite country after another. Life was cheap; people were treated brutally. Jesus was hanged on a cross.

Nevertheless, Easter brought assurance that the forces of evil and death could not overcome the forces of life. The knowledge that Jesus had risen from the dead gave the early Christians a toughness of fiber and a confidence in the future that no adversity could shake. From those days, full of the hope and joy of Easter, we inherit three firm beliefs that can strengthen us for whatever hardships we may face.

TODAY, too, every religious person can say, "Nothing can separate me from the love of God."

Circumstances can do strange things to a person's fortune. He may lose his economic security, his opportunity for advancement, even his very job. Anxiety over such loss can cause hypertension, insanity, and death. The world is full of people who have either been beaten by their loss of economic security

THIS JOYOUS FEAST GIVES US THREE

or escaped from it by falling into a neurosis. Crippling illness can isolate a person from the world of reality. War may claim loved ones.

Yet the religious person knows that no hardship or tragedy can separate him from the love of God. The one fixed star in his life beyond every circumstance is the Almighty who helps him realize and bring to expression the very best within him.

Easter reminds us that God enabled Jesus to endure crucifixion and death and then resurrected Him to life. In like manner, God is waiting by every bed of pain, by every chair of sorrow, by every place of agony, to help His creatures. As one of the early Christians, with the Easter meaning in mind, put it triumphantly, "In all of these things we are more

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Crucifixion scene from the film, "Day of Triumph."