

THE EASTER SERVICE

The Christ has risen

Bis Millaa Hir Rahmaa Nir Raheem

(In the name of ALLAH, Ever Gracious, Ever Merciful.)

Yes, we Muslims also believe that Jesus has risen.

We believe in Jesus Christ as a prophet without distinction in respect, in honour and in dignity. We believe that Jesus is one of the greatest prophets of mankind. We also believe in Abraham, Ismael, Isaac, Jacob and in all the Tribes of Israel. We believe in their books (Sahufas). We also believe in Moses and Jesus. We believe in the (originals) of the Torah and Gospel. We believe in Muhammad and the last Revealed Book of ALLAH to him—the Qur'aan. Peace and blessings of ALLAH be upon all prophets. We believe in One True God— ALLAH and we bow ourselves to HIM in Islam. Thus, we believe in Jesus as a prophet and we make no distinction between one and another prophet.

Qur'aan is ALLAH's Word. Raising of Jesus to heaven is however described differently by ALLAH in Qur'aan. ALLAH says- "And they plotted against Jesus, and ALLAH also plotted differently. And ALLAH is best to plot." ALLAH said - "O' Jesus! I will take you to ME and will raise you to ME" (3:55). But the plotters boastfully said - "We slew the Messiah Jesus, the son of Mary and the Messenger of ALLAH. No, they did not slay him, neither they crucified him. Only a likeness of him was shown to them. Those who are at variance concerning him are surely in doubt regarding him. They have no knowledge of him. They only surmise. Certainly they did not slay him. ALLAH raised him unto HIMSELF. And ALLAH is ALMIGHTY and ALL-WISE" (4:157-158).

As I understand, Christianity's real strength lies in the beauty of the person of Jesus Christ himself. It was his humanism, his humility, his kindness, his tolerance, his perseverance and his love and sympathy that has endeared him to all. He remained steadfast till the end - to the task of delivering his Supreme Message - "Love my God and thy God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind." This he did under pain and mistreatment. He was the true strength of Christianity and he still remains the real strength of Christianity. His person was as much lovable yesterday as it is today and would remain lovable even tomorrow. Surely his true teachings are the pride and light to the humanity. But he was not god incarnate. He was the prophet.

Surely, ALLAH has raised him unto HIMSELF. And he will return.

By Abdul Waheed Khan
Please visit www.islam-christianity.com