



Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche Schweiz  
Église évangélique réformée de Suisse  
Protestant Church in Switzerland

**Pfarrerin Rita Famos**  
Präsidentin · Présidente · President

## Opening Address for the Global Leadership Bern Easter Reception

Leadership Lounge

Bern, 1 April 2026

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Hosts,

What a beautiful tradition it is for ambassadors and embassy staff to gather for the Easter reception. A warm thanks to the organizers for the invitation.

At Easter, a net of hope is made by Christians around the globe.

We do this in many ways:

- through a rich array of Easter traditions as diverse as the cultures from which we hail.
- In prayer vigils we seek words to express unspeakable suffering and entrust it to the power of God's resurrection.
- At solemn Easter services we proclaim the resurrection of Christ in all the languages of the world and in liturgies of various denominations.
- At merry family gatherings we celebrate the joy of living.

Through all these signs we point to the often invisible hope that has been placed in our hearts.

Hope is not apparent when we look at the world, because what we see is distressing:

We see war and violence.

We see injustice and helplessness.

We see divisions, mistrust and hardship.

And we also see the limitations and blameworthiness of our own actions.

It is like a tunnel vision of horror from which we can hardly escape.



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However, Easter directs our gaze away from the visible, which frightens us, towards the invisible, which sustains us.

Easter is the feast of hope. But not in the sense of a pious reassurance. Not as an escape from a difficult world. But rather as the powerful and liberating realization that what we see before us is not all there is.

The Easter message contradicts the assumption that all the misery before our eyes has the final say.

It says: Death does not remain.

Injustice does not remain.

Destructive forces do not always prevail.

God did not leave Jesus Christ in death. He raised him to new life. And that is why we, too, can trust that this world is not fated to remain the way it currently appears.

This Easter, I would like to share with you some words of Apostle Paul that have accompanied and encouraged me time and again:

*'For our slight, momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen, for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal' (2 Cor. 4:18).*

This is not a call to deny reality we see. On the contrary, it is an invitation to look more deeply. Not just to look at what is before our eyes, but at what is invisible. Not just at the temporary, but at God's future.

Christian hope lives precisely from this:

What is before our eyes is not all there is.

God has more possibilities than we can see.

No one must be written off for good.

Circumstances do not have to remain forever just because they seem powerful.

And in everything that overwhelms us, we are not left to fend for ourselves.

That is why hope does not lead to passivity, but to responsibility.

Those who hope see the world differently.

Those who hope do not give up on people prematurely.

Those who hope hold fast to the belief that every person's dignity matters.

And those who hope begin, even now, to contribute to working on what has not yet been accomplished.



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This hope has a civilizing, humanizing power. It does not blind us to conflicts, but it prevents us from resigning ourselves to them. It does not make us unworldly but calls us into the midst of the world to see it with the eyes of Easter and, with God's help, to make the world a better place.

Dear Ambassadors,

I have been told that there is a special Easter tradition in the villages of Piedmont. At Easter, the fountains are decorated with flowers. When the Easter bells ring on Easter morning, the children run out of their houses to wash their eyes with water from the festively decorated fountains. By washing their eyes in this way, they hope to see the world through the eyes of Easter. That they see not only the visible, that is temporary, but also the invisible hope, that is eternal.

Eyes that not only see the suffering we are confronted with daily in the news but also glimpse the hope of Easter beyond our reality.

In this spirit, I wish that all of us may have — for the many responsible tasks that are entrusted to us — the *eyes of Easter*. So that we may all be not only ambassadors of our countries and cultures, but also ambassadors who mediate between the visible, which is ephemeral, and the invisible, which remains for eternity.

And I hope that this meditation on Easter will inspire us to take part now in that which serves life: justice, truth, connectedness with others, and the dignity of all people.

I wish you a happy and blessed Easter.

Thank you very much.