

April 4 2021

Easter Sunday

Luke 24:1-12

**CHRIST IS RISEN: INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

This year I thought to do something a little bit different for Easter this year. I was blessed enough to come across an unusual sermon about Easter and the days before. It is based on a piece of scripture I would never think to use or that it would speak to this celebration. When I heard it I was fascinated that it spoke to Easter in a deeper and different way.

This sermon is based on Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Mostly the three words from 1 Corinthians 13-13. There Paul mentions: Faith, Hope and Love. These three virtues represent the three days that altered the history of the world and the life of humanity.

The first day is the day of the cross. For us that is Good Friday. St. Paul refers to it as the message of faith. The day of the cross is the day of faith. The day Our Lord Jesus was crucified on the cross. In the Song of Songs 5-10 it states, "My beloved is white and ruddy, chief among 10,000." White and ruddy signifies purity and redemption. Chief among 10,000 is a banner. Similarly, Our Lord's cross was an elevated banner on Golgotha. A hill outside of Jerusalem so all may see it. The

day of Our Lord's crucifixion is the day of faith. Our faith is developed and shaped on the cross. Mind you we only come to know this in light of today. The foundation of our faith is the cross. St. Paul writes in Galatians 2-20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." Good Friday is the day we were established in Christ, the Redeemer and Saviour of humanity.

Remember the Roman Centurion, Longenious, who pierced Our Lord's side and his words. "Truly this was the Son Of God" Mt 27-54. Being a Roman, the testimony from the pagan world acknowledges what Jesus did for all humanity. The foundation of our faith is the cross upon which Our Lord was crucified. He transformed the cross from an instrument of humiliation and shame to an instrument of glory and honour. One that we still take great pride in today.

Now we come to Holy Saturday. This is the Saturday of expectation and hope. This was how St. Paul expressed it. That Jesus was crucified, died and was buried in a tomb. The disciples were anticipating with hope on Saturday for the resurrection of their teacher and Rabbi. Saturday was a day of hope that was expressed by Jesus during His final teachings with the disciples. Saturday is the day of hope, but it was also filled with fear, anxiety and endurance. Our Lord was buried in the tomb, but really where is He?

Finally we arrive at Easter Sunday. This is the day of love. St Paul says, "and now abide in faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love." 1 Cor 13-13. The resurrection of Jesus is an expression of His love for humanity. That is the only logical answer to explain His ministry amongst us and His death on the cross. St. Paul writes to the Philippians, 3-10," That I may know Him and the power of His

resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering, being conformed to His death.” This personal experience Paul had of the resurrected Jesus is the love that is offered to all of us. God the Father did not leave our souls to live in anxiety, sorrow or pain. God chose the dawn of Sunday as the day He made to fill humanity with love and joy. When our hearts are filled with godly love then we can more easily live in joy.

The resurrection of Christ is the strongest expression of love God has for humanity. Every liturgy on Sunday commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His love for us. Romans 5-5, “The love of God has been poured out and into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

I found this sermon an interesting interpretation of 1 Cor 13-13. I never would have thought it expressed a deeper understanding of Good Friday, Holy Saturday and ultimately Easter. Yet it beautifully sheds light on another way to understand these three days. Most often we use this passage from Corinthians at weddings. It describes the marriage of the Bridegroom we know as Jesus Christ through these three virtues and days. It raises more questions about the coming of the Bridegroom and the wise and unwise virgins. Are we ready for His return?

Today is about God’s love for us and how He sent His Son to save us from sin. The love of the Son for us. His sacrifice on the cross was made out of love for us. To see us freed from sin. Today we celebrate Love and God’s love for each one of us. We are His children that are greatly loved by our God. Go out into the world and tell of this love and share it everywhere. They will know you are my followers by how you love. Have a happy and blessed Easter, Pastor D