

Easter Sunday Service: April 12, 2020

“Be Foolish, not Frightened . . . and Our Lady of Hopeless Causes!”



This Lenten season has certainly been like no other!

Fears, sickness and death have been thrown in our faces and we seem so out of control, so ill equipped to respond. We have traveled to the brink where we confront our deepest fears of despair, injustice, abandonment, and death.

But Easter has the final word! Resurrection means that hope can overwhelm despair; our fears do not have the final say and that what is good and life-giving is God’s intent. Because of Christ’s resurrection, LOVE WINS!

Click this link to watch the Easter Service on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YP8RoSrD5oI>



1. GATHERING

- **Gathering in Quiet**

- **Scripture:** *Matthew 28:1-10*

- *Matthew 28:1 After the sabbath day, at first light on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary came to inspect the tomb. 2 And suddenly there was a strong earthquake. You see, a messenger of the Lord had come down from the sky, arrived at the tomb, rolled back the stone and was sitting on it. 3 The messenger gave off a dazzling light and wore clothes as white as snow. 4 Now those who kept watch were paralyzed with fear and looked like corpses. 5 In response the messenger said to the women, “Don't be frightened! I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here! You see, he was raised, just as he said. Come, look at the spot where he was laying. And run, tell his disciples that he has been raised from the dead... 8 And they hurried away from the tomb, full of apprehension and an overpowering joy and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Hello!" They came up and took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Don't be afraid...”*

- **Prelude**

- **Call to Worship:** Based on Matthew 28 (L: leader, P: people)



L: At first light, on the first day of the week, right at that time just between darkness and dawn.

P: Our sisters went in search of his tomb, looking for his corpse.

L: But an earthquake shattered the stillness of morning and dazzling light electrified the morning sky!

P: Then they saw the stoned rolled away and someone sitting on it.

L: "Don't be frightened, he is not here! Just like he told you he has come back to life.

Those who are alive do not lie in tombs among the dead!"

P: They ran away, "full of apprehension and overpowering joy!"

L: Shouting, "He is risen!"

ALL: "He is risen indeed!"

- **Singing** 

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD



- **Children's Time**

- **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-27

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.



22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles... 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. 26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong..."

- **Message:** "Be Foolish not Frightened ... and Our Lady of Hopeless Causes!!"

- **Singing** 

- **Bell and Moment of Silence**

3. RESPONDING TO GOD



- **Confessional Prayer:** (in unison)

Lord,

Enlighten what is dark in me,
Strengthen what is weak in me,
Mend what is broken in me,
Bind what is bruised in me,
Heal what is sick in me,
And lastly,
resurrect whatever peace and love has died in me.

— Amen

- **Reflections and Responses**

- **Joys and Concerns**

- **Sending into God's World**

- **Closing**

