

## HOMILY – EASTER SUNDAY 2018

The feast of Easter that we celebrate is a celebration of life over death. It is a promise of hope. Love wins! We have passed on from the darkness of Good Friday to the brilliant light of Easter joy. “This is the day the Lord has made – let us rejoice and be glad.”

By his resurrection, Jesus has begun to change things. The resurrection is a declaration that evil and sin will not have the last word. We proclaim on this feast that God raised up Jesus and made Him the Lord of a new creation, a creation where his followers are called to be instruments of compassion to the poor and vulnerable, and to be agents of justice and peace. This new creation is still a work in progress.

That is why today’s liturgy is also a call to ministry. That is why during this Mass we will be invited once again to renew our baptismal promises. At baptism we were anointed to share in the three fold ministry of Jesus – to be a priestly people, a prophetic people and builders of the kingdom of God. That means as a priestly people we are to bring Christ’s values to the world. We are to make our homes sanctuaries where the presence of God is always found and experienced. We are called to be prophetic people who stand up for the poor and oppressed, who welcome the stranger, who oppose all forms of injustice and violence. And we are called to build up the kingdom of God where the hungry will be fed, the naked will be clothed and the sorrowing will be comforted. Our faith is much more than avoiding sin and keeping the commandments. It is willingly living out our baptismal promises and joining with Jesus in cleaning up the mess caused by indifference and neglect.

We are called today to move away from the empty tomb. “He has been raised; he is not here.” We have been called to go to where our work on behalf of the kingdom of God can have the most influence. We will not be able to bring about world peace but we can work to be peacemakers in our own families by greater patience, more honesty and our willingness to forgive and reconcile. We cannot free those who are oppressed by inhuman working conditions in third world countries, but we can stand up for the child who is bullied at school or support the man or woman in our workplace who is demeaned or treated unjustly. We might not be able to feed all the hungry children in the world but we can cooperate with our friends and our colleagues to look at issues of hunger in our own communities and find ways in which the poor can move out of the shackles of poverty and find employment that will allow them to support themselves.

Easter is about our commitment to answer the call of baptism to help clean up our messy world. Easter should proclaim to the whole world that God has begun through us to transform this broken world, and that we are willing to go in Jesus’ name to proclaim by our lives that “LOVE WINS”. Happy Easter to all.

## **Closing Story**

One Easter Sunday Reverend Jones announced to his congregation, he said, "My good people, I have in my hands three sermons. A \$100 dollar sermon that lasts 5 minutes, a \$50 dollar sermon that lasts 15 minutes and a \$20 dollar sermon that will last a whole hour. Now we will take up a collection and see which sermon you choose that I deliver."