

EASTER SUNDAY 2017

1. Often on Sunday mornings I listen to the Divine Office as I get up
2. Common phrase that is used seems to touch me in a special way
 - a. It is an image of God that just seems so glorious
 - b. God is wrapped in light as in a robe
3. Any image we have for God does not come close
 - a. This image does say something special about God
4. Robe is a special garment that we wear to reveal something of our role
 - a. Might be called uniform like police or the military, or coats like doctors or nurses sometimes wear
 - b. Might be Judges robes or vestments such as priests wear such as chasuble or stole
 - c. Robes establish that a person is taking on a special role
 - d. Something that needs to be easily recognized.
5. Lent is a time when we recognize darkness
 - a. It begins shortly after darkness has reached it deepest point
 - b. Lent is a time of hope for the light is gradually increasing
 - c. Symbolism of overcoming darkness represents our hope for God
 - d. Lent is a time for us to focus on improving our lives
 - e. We are called to recognize our failures, our sins
 - f. We turn to God for healing and forgiveness, so that we can be renewed as we were in baptism
 - g. Readings of Lent focus on the new meaning that Jesus gives to water
 - h. Water is more than the natural source of refreshment and water
 - i. It is also the source of eternal life with God
6. Holy Week forces of darkness and light meet for their ultimate battle
 - a. Palm Sunday not only are crowds welcoming Jesus and His Kingdom
 - b. But the Roman authorities with cooperation of Jewish authorities begin to seek to destroy Jesus
 - c. Holy Thursday Jesus knowing that Judas is about to betray Him has his Last Supper with His disciple
 - d. As a final act of teaching, He shows His disciples the purpose of His mission on earth
 - e. Rather than being praised by crowds, He takes on role of a slave washing their feet
 - f. Good Friday it looks like the forces of darkness are winning
 - g. Jesus is betrayed, abandoned, mocked, tortured and finally dies on a cross
7. Then at the Easter vigil once the darkness of Saturday has fallen, light begins to come back
 - a. A fire is lit and blessed and from this fire, the Easter or Paschal candle is lit
 - b. God who is wrapped as light as in a robe has become present in Jesus

- c. We discover that Jesus who on Friday appeared to be a failed human now reveals Himself
 - d. He is the God-man, His body is not just alive again
 - e. He has life beyond our imagination
 - f. Carries the wounds of crucifixion but they no longer harm Him
 - g. They are simply the marks of one who has conquered suffering and death to find the full joy of life in God
8. Jesus has been revealed as the light of the world
- a. He has conquered death to give us hope for eternal life
 - b. He forms us into a community that He declares is His very Body
 - c. We are baptized so that we might reveal our hope in Jesus to one another and the world
 - d. We are called to continue the work and ministry of Jesus
 - e. So that we might be willing even to wash each other's feet
9. We celebrate Easter as the time when we are to remember that we too can be wrapped in light
- a. we are called to deepen our faith and hope that we too can rise with Jesus
 - b. Confident that we are made alive by Jesus, we are strengthened to love one another, to recognize that we are all children of God
 - c. Christian love of even the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters is the promise that the light of God truly does conquer the power of darkness