

"Easter Hope: A New Day Dawns"

Easter Sunday

1)

Luke 24:1-12

2)

April 21, 2019

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hallelujah! (Psalm 118:24)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

They laid the cornerstone 856 years ago. It took two hundred years to complete and has stood at the center of Paris for 9 centuries. This past Monday, it burned. A building that has had millions of people worship in her pews, has seen kings made, heretics unmade, and an emperor crowned...the cathedral of Notre Dame was engulfed in flames.

I watched the live footage as the towering spire that dominates the Paris skyline became a 226-foot high torch, and then slowly toppled to pierce the sanctuary. As the sun went down, the flames raged on and lit up the darkened sky. Damage assessment wouldn't start till morning. What would be left? They wouldn't know until the new day dawned. The people of France had to wait through a long night.

Have you ever had to wait for a new day to dawn? Have you ever had that feeling – wondering what you're going to wake up to? You get the sense that that was the feeling of the disciples and the women who first made their way to the tomb.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ "The Son of Man must be delivered

into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ”⁸ Then they remembered his words.

⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.