

The Hope of Easter

Scripture: Romans 5:1 – 11 and John 13:6 - 20

3/30/25 – Lent #4

There is a great hope in Easter! If you try to rid yourself of disappointment during the Easter season, good luck! A man decided to auction off his belongings on eBay. He told his friends – ‘On the day all my possessions are sold, I intend to walk out my front door with my wallet, passport, and nothing else! I will see my mother before heading to the airport. I’ll see where life takes me from there. It is time to shed the old, and in with the new!’

I think all of us can relate to the disappointments of life. Some more than others! In our scripture passage from Romans, Paul encouraged the believers in Jesus in Rome to remember that Jesus’ death provided them with peace with God, because of what Jesus had done for them.

And we need to take hold of this same faith that provides us with peace with God, because of what Jesus has done for us! This divine peace empowers all believers to experience a hope that will not lead to disappointment. Moreover, it helps us face difficulties without running away from them.

Oh, we will face trials, and these trials are designed to develop endurance, strength of character, and hope within us.

God’s presence provides a settled confidence that he loves us and will empower us through the Holy Spirit. And his love and the Holy Spirit’s presence provide the assurance that our trust in Jesus is not misplaced!

As believers in Jesus, we can rejoice in our faith. Rather than running from our disappointments, we can know that God is walking with us through them.

Jesus said something to Peter on the evening of the Last Supper that would affirm our faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus was about to wash the feet of his disciples. Jesus said – *‘You do not understand what I am about to do, but someday you will. Peter, you will deny me three times before the rooster crow’s tomorrow morning.’*

What the disciples did not know, and often what we do not know, is through Jesus Christ, God was doing something far greater than what they (and we) realize!

In living for Jesus, we may find ourselves in our own messy life. Even in our best work, we make mistakes, we mess things up, and we fall into despair. But Jesus tells his disciples and us that he is the Messiah. That gives us real hope. We may not know what God is doing, but we should trust in who Jesus is! Jesus is way more than what we understand.

Another story: After a mother’s bone marrow transplant, the doctor informed her and her family that her cancer had returned. Her medical team offered her an experimental treatment as her only option. As soon as she and her family left the doctor’s office, the mother told her family ‘I do not want to suffer anymore! I am at peace. God knows it and I am ready to go home.’

The family wanted to convince her to continue her fight. They had been praying for her to say YES to her treatments. Their prayers were in contrast to the mother’s prayers.

As time went by, they found comfort in God, and they did not grieve like those who have no hope.

When Jesus said that we would face troubles in this world, he also said – *‘Take heart! I have overcome the world!’* Sin separates all people from God, but Christ paid for our sins by dying on the cross and giving us the gift of eternal life. Jesus prayed to God the Father on behalf of his disciples, of whom we are part of.

If you declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus up from the dead, nothing, not even death, can separate you from Jesus’ life-transforming love.

If we declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus up from the dead, nothing, not even death, can separate us from Jesus’ life-transforming love.

As believers in Jesus, the Holy Spirit will empower us to know and love God and help us to lovingly share the good news of Christ with others.

Will you accept Jesus as your Savior and embrace his enduring hope today?

Will we accept Jesus as our Savior and embrace his enduring hope today?

Let us pray:

Dear God, please help us trust in You when we face the hard and disappointing times in life. May we seek your strength during these times. And dear God, please help us accept that your ways are not always known to us, but need to be followed. Amen.

Have you seen this sign in our window by the main entrance to our Chapel? It says – Wash your hands & say your prayers because Jesus & germs are everywhere!

There is a lot of truth in this sign.

On the table of remembrance, we have the bread, the emblem of the body of Christ, and we have the cup filled with juice, the emblem of the blood of Christ.

At this communion table, we are given the opportunity to confess and wash our sins away. In some of the same ways, this is our foot washing.

Let us come to the Lord's Table because we are Disciples of Christ.

Now if you wish, please come forward to wash your hands.