***The Dawn of the New Creation***

**Creation Day 8 – Easter Dawn**

(*this sermon is an adaptation of a sermon by Rev. Dr. Don Wiley)*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Here we are in the early dawn of the Resurrection of our Lord! What a wonderful thing it is to be gathered together in Christ. Yes, we are together! We are one body in Christ, and while separated by whatever distance it may be, we are together in Christ – together to rejoice this Holy day.

Throughout our ***Lenten*** and ***Holy Week*** services, we have been considering God’s work of Creation and our Savior’s work of Re-Creation. From the very beginning of His Creative work, God sets before us paired opposites—darkness and light, night and day, evening and morning. Each of these pairs of opposites have an important place in the story of the New Creation. Today, this dawn of the Resurrection morning we consider our theme: ***The Dawn of the New Creation***.

It was dark when Judas went out to betray our Lord. Peter’s faith failed in the dark and cold of midnight when he denied Jesus three times. At the moment of the death of the Son of God, the sun was darkened at midday for three hours.

On the eighth day, the first day of the New Creation, Resurrection Sunday, the darkness of sin and death are shattered by the glorious rays of light. St. Mark proclaims in his Gospel that: *Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen* (16:2). In the Resurrection account as recorded by St. Luke in his Gospel, we know that the angels who greeted the women with the Good News that Christ the Lord *has risen* (24:6) were arrayed *in clothes that gleamed like lightning* (24:4).

Do you understand the significance of this? God in Genesis, (and the Jews as we know, for example) reckon the day beginning at sundown. In the creation account you remember that at the end of each day it was proclaimed, “And there was evening and morning, the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth day. So, it was in the evening that day began, with the onset of darkness.

But God is now doing a new thing on Resurrection day. It is with the morning, with the dawn’s first rays of light, that we behold ***The Dawn of the New Creation***, the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The darkness has given way to light. Death has been put to flight. Sin no longer prevails. The Son of God has conquered sin and Satan, death and hell.

*Alleluia. Christ is risen!*

*[He is risen indeed. Alleluia!]*

Christ’s Resurrection puts God’s creative order in a new light. God’s creative order pointed forward to something even better. God’s own order of evening then morning, darkness then light, now serves us as a constant reminder that it is not the darkness that has the last say, but the light.

Dearly beloved of God, as He knew what would happen even as He created, this was the plan from before the first creative Word was spoken. It is not sin that shall have the last word, but the holiness and righteousness of the Word made Flesh—our Lord Jesus Christ.

Death that shall have the final triumph, but resurrection and eternal life in connection with Him Who is the Lord and Giver of Life.

God’s final Word with you is in Him Who is Light. You are united by *Baptism* and faith and the *Holy Supper* to Him Who Himself ***IS*** ***the Resurrection and the Life***. Yes, just as our Savior told Martha before He raised her brother, Lazarus, from the grave.

This cycle of darkness and light shall be to you a perpetual reminder that the words of Psalm 30 are true for your life:

*O Lord my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me. O Lord, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit. Sing praises to the Lord, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy Name. For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.* (Psalm 30:2-5)

Yes, the Lord may chasten you. The Lord may bring you to your knees in tears of sorrow and repentance because of the demands of His holy Law that you can never fulfill—but that ***anger is but for a moment***.

Chastening from the Lord comes to lead us to repentance. What is globally being endured is nothing more than a chastening call to repentance to the entire human race, to all those created in the image of God – and to all those for whom the Son willingly endured the pain of the cross.

Repent of unbelief in the One who created all things – included each and every one of us – having formed us each in the womb.

Repent of the global lack of respect for all life created by God in His image.

Repent of lack of trust in the Creator who sustains all the exists.

Repent of thinking that we are *all that* for we are nothing but sinners.

In repentance, as the Psalm says, He shall raise you up again. You shall be healed of your wounds with the soothing voice of His Gospel. He will wipe away your tears with the Word of His absolution: *Your sins, though many, are forgiven you*.

That Psalm is right, ***Weeping may tarry for the night,*** as you sit in the darkness of your sin and God’s condemnation of it. Yes, we are confined “safer-at-home” to consider our own sin and God’s condemnation of it.

***But joy comes with the morning***, it is the Resurrection Dawn, this is the light of Christ’s glorious ***Resurrection.*** This light assures you that in Him all your sins are forgiven. His resurrection declares that in Him you are clothed with the brightness of Him Who is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns to all eternity.

You are the New Creation in Him and for His sake the Father reckons you to be perfectly holy and righteous in His sight, that in Him you **have** eternal life.

Through *Holy Baptism* you have put on Christ—put on the brightness of His holiness, you have put on the light of His salvation, you have put on His ***Resurrection*** from death and the grave. Clothed in Christ, you have put on His immortality and life that shine in greater glory than the sun.

How wonderful are the words of Psalm 30, ***O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever.*** (Ps 30:12b) So let us do, today and forevermore. In the name of Jesus. Amen.