

BEST. DAY. EVER.

Sermon for Easter A

LPC, 4/20/14

Do you know what this is called? It's a cope: C-O-P-E. that's easy to remember because it's a *cape* that makes you go "Oh!" Also because it weighs about ten pounds it's something a person my size has to really cope with. I wonder if any of the children would like to try it on?

How would you describe this garment? Fancy? Ornate? Regal? Expensive?

You'd be right about this last. This cope may be the most expensive item made of cloth in this whole building. Just for grins I prices copes this weekend and this model goes for about \$1,400. There are cars that don't cost that much. This must have been a very nice gift to the church from a very generous donor.

The cope is a garment worn by the principal celebrant at an especially festive Eucharist. In a big church or cathedral that has many priest in procession, they all might be wearing the fanciest vestments, but only the priest or bishop who will say the prayers at communion will have a cope on. In a small church like this one with only one priest, I wear the cope, even though it's not really my size. Technically, it's not supposed to have a train.

I won't wear the cope through the whole service because it's hot and heavy and someone as clumsy as I am is likely to knock something over with it. But I wear it during the opening and closing processions to add some grandeur. Frankly it's too beautiful not to be seen.

Now, I don't want those of you who don't worship here regularly to get the wrong idea. I don't wear this thing just any Sunday: just pretty much only at Easter, and sometimes, if I remember to wear it, at Christmas.

This cope represents our finest things, which we drag out for our most special occasions. And there is no day more special than Easter. Not even Christmas. Have you seen that billboard that says: "Easter: the best. Day. Ever." That about sums it up. I don't agree with all the religious billboards that have popped up around town, but I agree with that one.

Easter is the best day ever and that's why it's appropriate to wear our absolute best things today. Did anyone here get a brand new outfit for Easter? Good for you!

Today is the best day ever because on this day, Jesus rose to life again after being completely dead. This showed once and for all that death is not the last word for those who love God. This shows we don't have to be afraid of anything, because if death has no power over us, nothing has power over us, except the provident, forgiving, and restorative love of God.

The Very Rev. Cynthia Byers Walter

The God who gives us life gives us all the life we want... all the life we can handle, and then some! That means when we blow it, we always get a second chance.

Everything we prize and need most – life, light and love – is offered in abundance at Easter because Jesus rose after being dead, proving that there are no limits on life and light and love, and all the light and life and love we want and need is forever available to us.

Now sometimes we get dissatisfied – don't we? – because we think life and light and love aren't enough for us, and we think we want something more. But we really don't need more than life and light and love, and those things we have in abundance. We have them in abundance because of what Jesus does at Easter.

All that I have, and all that I ever hope to be is because of Easter, and I am so happy that Easter is here again this year.

Alleluia!