

Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION
OF THE WORD OF GOD



Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

April 2019

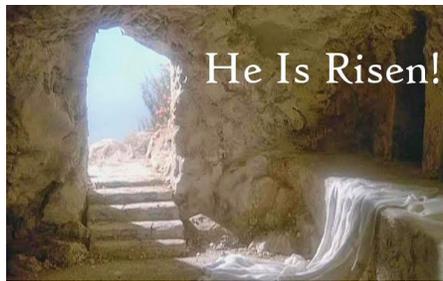
Praise the Lord for His Goodness!

Pastor Dennis Hannu
Wolf Lake, Minnesota

THE PSALMIST WRITES in *Psalm 107:8*: *Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!* He repeats this phrase 4 times as he recounts the working of the Lord in the lives of the Israelite people. There is a call to remember the kindness of the Lord to His people. He redeems them from their trouble, the ones lost in the wilderness, those who are prisoners, those who are foolish, and those facing storms. Each time they faced these hardships and cried out to the Lord, He delivered them from their distresses. The psalmist calls the reader of the psalm to consider the Lord's goodness and His wondrous works toward people.

As we are now in another Lenten season and making our way toward Holy Week, it is again with thankfulness that we remember the events of Good Friday and Easter. The goodness of God is truly shown to us in this season. We may be tempted to think that we should be sorrowful and morose during the events leading up to the resurrection, but perhaps we should rather consider in all of the actions of God the tremendous love He demonstrates for us as His only begotten Son is crucified for us. Paul writes in *Romans 5:8-11*: *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.* There is in this season a tremendous amount of joy and gladness to be expressed by us as we again celebrate the goodness of our God. The message of the gospel, the good news, sounds forth triumphantly as the church again makes its way through this season.

In all of the songs we sing and the sermons we hear, there is this constant reminder of God's goodness. His goodness is shown as we see Jesus performing miracles and ministering to the people that were constantly following Him everywhere He went. His goodness is shown as Jesus breaks the bread at the Passover feast and says to His disciples: "Take and eat it; this is My Body." And when He takes the cup



and says, "Drink from it all of you, for this is My Blood of the new covenant; it is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins." God's goodness is shown as Jesus spends the night in the Garden of Gethsemane in sadness and sorrow over the horror of the sin of the world about to be laid on Him. His goodness

is on display as Jesus goes through the trial and opens not His mouth in defense of Himself. It is seen as He is whipped and scourged by the Roman soldiers. God's goodness is seen as Jesus is nailed to the cross and suspended between heaven and earth for all to see. It is seen as Jesus cries out with a loud voice: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Perhaps you may be thinking: "How does all of this show us the goodness of God?" Well, my friend, He did it all for you, He took your sin, He suffered the abuse of the people for you, He was nailed to the cross for you, and He cried out to the Father on behalf of you. That cry of dereliction was rightfully our cry because of our sin and instead the perfect Human shouts this out and then dies. The One who knew no sin became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. He was laid in the tomb for you. He died for you, dear sinner.

Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness! is the cry of our hearts as we consider the powerful work of our God. For you see on the third day Jesus arose victorious from the grave. The tomb lies empty and death has been vanquished. The wages of sin have been satisfied and we have been set free. The sentence of death which was ours has been lifted and we have been adopted into the family of God. We are the sons and daughters of the most High God and we now address Him as "Father." All of this is ours because of the goodness of our God. The psalmist's words ring true for us as we continue on our Lenten journey towards Holy Week, a journey we have perhaps taken many times, but nonetheless promises to bring us to a glorious rest in the person of Jesus Christ, now and for all eternity. It is true my friends, all of it, you are forgiven and on your way on to heaven because of the goodness of the Lord and because of His wonderful works to the children of men.

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! ~

To Redeem Them

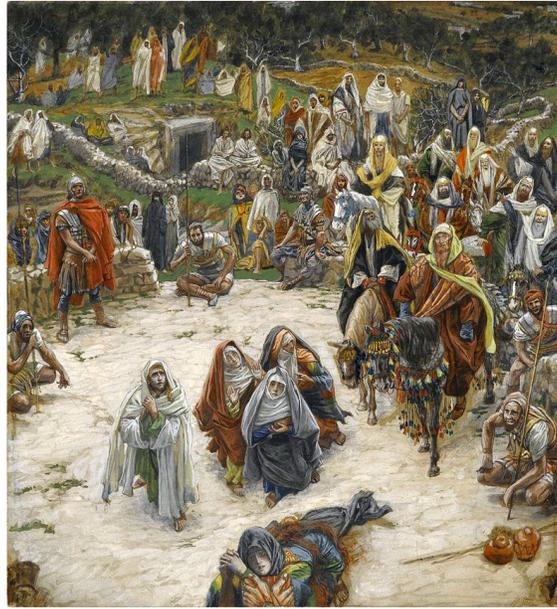
C.O. Rosenius

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Galatians 4:4-5

OH, THE ETERNAL LOVE of God that loved the world to such an extent! We are given here the reason why the Son of God became a human being, what His great errand was, and the purpose of His arrival in the world! He was *made under the law to redeem them that were under the law*. Oh, the black darkness of unbelief that will not allow us to accept this! Look at those who really believe that God has given us His Son to fulfill the Law for us. I am not surprised that they love such a God and Savior. I am not surprised that they become fervent in spirit because of the high heavenly delight and peace and love that fills them. I am not surprised that they are smitten with zeal against anything less that claims to make us righteous and holy. When God wanted to save fallen human beings and to redeem them from the judgment of the Law, what was He to do? It had to happen so that not even one jot or tittle of divine righteousness would suffer (Matthew 5:18). And the apostle says that it happened by God's own Son being made under the Law. He became a servant and fulfilled the Law on our behalf. Oh, the matchless love of God!

Do you believe what the whole of Scriptures testify, that only because of Christ having fulfilled the Law, yes, only because of the righteousness of Christ we will become righteous? Then the only question remaining to check your assurance will be: "Can I be certain that Christ has fulfilled the Law to the full satisfaction of the eternal Father?" You can certainly rest assured. Christ *has* fully kept the Law. He loved the Father with all His heart, and with all His soul, and with all His power, and with all His mind. It was His meat to do the will of His Father. Equally completely He has also loved His neighbor as Himself, so much so, that He even forgot Himself and poured out His soul unto death, was numbered with the transgressors; and bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12). He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:8). Because He was made under the Law, it also meant that He was able to take on Himself the judgment and



What Our Lord Saw from the Cross James Tissot

curse of the Law which overhangs sinners. It is written: *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us. (Galatians 3:13) Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Hebrews 2:14-15)* So He has done all for us. Praised and magnified be His name! He was the only one who could do it. But now everybody should make sure he gives Christ the glory for the work, i.e., should bear in mind and acknowledge that his Lord has done all well. Words cannot describe how deplorable it is when the devil so deceives our senses that we live our

time as if we did not know the real value of all that Christ has done. We read, sing and say that God has given us His own Son to be our Brother, our Fulfiller of the Law, and our Lamb of the sin offering, and yet some in their thoughts and spiritual efforts declare their belief that in themselves they should be unimpeachable fulfillers of the Law in order to please God and be certain of His grace and friendship. By their lips only they praise the Mediator with many great and beautiful words but then turn to works in order to reconcile themselves with God.

There are many who all their lifetime have not had any real service and use for Christ. Let us then stop for a moment and think of what the Scriptures say about the use and service of this great gift which God gave us when His Son was made under the Law. The apostle says it was to *redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons*. Have you never seen or heard these words? Should we not at once praise the divine love and acknowledge that what our great Fulfiller of the Law has done is true and sufficient for us. The apostle here says that He has not done it for Himself, but in order to redeem those who were under the Law. Let everybody who wants to be a Christian stop for a moment to consider seriously what the sum and core of the Scriptures are that Christ is the end of the Law! *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. (Romans 10:4) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God did, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. (Romans 8:3) ~*

FOR IF WE HAVE BEEN PLANTED together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:5-11

Fear Nothing!

Pastor Travis Seppala
Greer, South Carolina

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

THE EARLY CHRISTIANS very clearly understood the nature of the victory of Jesus Christ. The idea of fear was not a concept that really seemed to enter into their thinking at all. Many times they were quite content to die in order to proclaim and live the gospel message if they thought that it meant people would be saved. Often they ministered Christ to the very people who were killing them. The reason for this was that they understood that their salvation was not tied to this world at all. In fact, they understood the victory of Christ to be so great that their salvation was completely taken care of and they were simply awaiting the consummation of Christ's work. They lived as if they had already been taken up with Him!

This is what the resurrection of Jesus Christ is all about. When He was raised from death to life we were raised with Him, and now we live in that hope, and that hope will always be alive because God will not let us down. We can know and

trust in the fact that He has always made good on His promises and never failed, and He will not fail now in this saving work. In the same way He promised that Christ would be raised, He now tells us that we have the same thing waiting for us because we are found in His Son. This is what Peter means when he tells us that we have an inheritance kept in heaven for us that will never perish, is undefiled, and will not fade. Not only that, but he also tells us that God Himself is now keeping us until the return of His Son. Victory is ours!

So what is there to fear? Well, the simple answer to that question is NOTHING. We have nothing to fear. In fact, we can now carry the message of Easter to everyone we meet knowing that they will never overcome us, because greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. So live in the victory of Christ's resurrection. Know that we no longer have to doubt our salvation. As a matter of fact, we can live for others knowing that God will keep us and we will never have to worry about what the future holds. Our lives are now tied to Christ, and when He returns—and He promises He will—we will see the object of our faith and know we are His. This is what the Easter message was and this is what now defines who we are, so live as if we are already His because we are! ~

Cleanse Me

IN MY MEDITATIONS THIS MORNING, the words of the song titled "Cleanse Me," written by J. Edwin Orr, were quoted. I began to think about those words. I would like to share some of my thoughts with you this morning. Think about the first verse:

**"Search me, O God, and know my heart today; Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me; Cleanse me from every sin and set me free."**

Are we always ready and willing to let God "search" our thoughts and "know" our hearts? I am not. Sometimes I would want to hide both my heart and thoughts from myself, let alone share those failings with my Heavenly Father. Yes, I foolishly think that they are hidden from the One who knows all things, at least I hope they are. Yet I tend to forget that when my "wicked ways" are truly revealed to me, I can ask for cleansing (*the blood of Jesus Christ...cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1:7*) and be made free again. Then we can truly sing the second verse:

**"I praise Thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin; Fulfill Thy Word and make me pure within.
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame; Grant my desire to magnify Thy name."**

So, how do we praise and magnify His name? A dictionary I use defined "praise" (in noun form) as *to value*, and (in verb form) *to raise up*. How much should we "value" what Christ has done in our behalf? I don't know if we fully understand all the benefits (Psalm 68:19 and Psalm 103:2) that He has bestowed upon us, but I am so thankful that He welcomes my feeble praise anyway. To "magnify" means to *exalt* and *raise up* in one of the definitions. How much we have to be thankful for and that fact should cause us to exalt our loving, Heavenly Father in Word and song. Speaking of exalting in song, let us return to the song I have been talking about. The last verse goes:

**"O Holy Ghost, revival comes from Thee; Send a revival; start the work in me.
Thy Word declares Thou wilt supply our need; For blessings now, O Lord, I humbly plead."**

There is much to be concerned about in the world, so what is the answer for such confusion and ungodly actions? The world needs Jesus and a revival; let it begin with us. Will the world ever be fully converted? The Word never says it will, but individual souls can be, and that is "the work" that God has called us to do - to show His "great love divine" (verse 3) to all and to pray for those who do not know His peace in their hearts. May God grant that His peace may abide in all of the hearts that read this today for it is such a wonderful gift from the "Giver of all good gifts" through the work of Jesus Christ in our behalf. May He walk with us each step of the way that leads us to heaven above, there to truly sing praises.

Shirley Lampinen
Snohomish, Washington

Jesus Christ Is Crucified

Gwen Wilson
Ridgefield, Washington

Dear Children,

It's now April, when we will start to see flowers poking their heads up to the sunshine and showing their pretty faces, and see trees and other plants change our dreary landscapes into beauty. Spring is so refreshing. I hear the songs of the birds, and it makes me thankful that God gave us birds. The world would be drearier without birds and flowers and so many other beautiful things.

God's creation is very beautiful and it makes us happy, but the thing that should make us the happiest is that God gave us His Son Jesus. If it were not for Jesus we would not have true happiness and peace.



The Last Supper: Judas Dips His Hand in the Dish James Tissot

THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER JESUS' DEATH. He had to die for you and me. Why? So that we who believe on Him may have eternal life. The Bible says: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)* That is a promise from the Lord. He is very good to us and loves you and me and all people so much that He gave His life on the cross. Let's think a bit on Jesus' death and new life. Jesus was alive and well, walking, talking, teaching, and living like other men on earth (but without sin) and then He was put to death.

Jesus had been teaching the people who followed Him. *And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified. (Matthew 26:1-2)* The disciples had heard Jesus speak of this before, but they didn't understand what He meant. Crucifixion was not something they wanted to think on. They knew it was an awful way to die.

The chief priests, scribes, and elders of the people were making plans to put Jesus to death.

Jesus and His disciples were in Bethany at Simon the leper's home when a woman came in with some very expensive ointment. She went to Jesus and poured it on His head. The disciples were upset because the ointment could have been sold and the money given to the poor. They thought the woman was wasteful.

Jesus told them not to bother the woman as she had done a great thing. He said that they would always have the poor around but they would not always have Him and that the ointment was for His burial. The disciples again heard Jesus talk of dying.

Right after this, the disciple Judas Iscariot slipped out and went in search of the chief priests. He asked them, "What will you give me if I bring Jesus to you?"

The Feast of the Passover day came and Jesus gathered with His disciples for this special evening. While they ate, Jesus said, *Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding (VERY) sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord is it I? And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.*

(v. 21-23) That was Judas. Jesus said it would have been better that he had not been born. Those are very strong words. After Jesus said those strong words, Judas asked, "Master, is it I?" Jesus replied, "Thou hast said." In other words, yes!

The word "betray" means to turn your back on someone and give secret information to the enemy. The betrayer Judas' heart and mind were overtaken by the devil. He turned his back on the one he called Lord, and brought the chief priests to find Jesus so they could kill Him.

While Jesus was with His disciples that last evening, He broke bread, blessed it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, *Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (v. 26-28)* Jesus had not even died yet, but He promised the forgiveness of sins in the blood which He would shed. Do you children understand that promise? It is for us sinners. We're forgiven because Jesus loved us and wanted to pour Himself out for us. It is an amazing love that our Lord has. We are a blessed people to believe in Jesus who we have not seen.

Then Jesus said, *But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. (v. 29)* When we get to heaven, Jesus will dine with us and everything will be perfect and new. Flawless peace, joy and happiness forever.

Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn and went to the Mount of Olives. Jesus went deeper into the garden with three of the disciples, leaving the others near the entrance, and then He went on alone to pray to God. Jesus' heart was very heavy with all the sins of mankind as He faced this hour before the chief priests, Pharisees and soldiers came to capture Him.

Jesus prayed to do His Father's will, and He was so sorrowful that His sweat was like drops of blood. All the while His disciples slept, unaware of the pain their Lord was going through. When Jesus was done praying, He said they should be going because His betrayer was coming. While He was still talking, Judas came with his group of men and gave Jesus away to them. They bound His hands and led Him away like a prisoner. His disciples were very fearful as they fled the area so as not to be captured themselves.

Jesus was taken before Caiaphas the high priest, who listened to many witnesses and could not find anything to accuse Him of. Two false witnesses came forward saying, *This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.* (Matthew 26:61) Caiaphas asked Jesus if He was the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus said, "You have said so." Hearing this, Caiaphas tore his clothes angrily and said Jesus deserved to die! Then people spit in Jesus' face, hit Him with their hands, and mocked Him.

In the morning Jesus was bound and taken before Pilate, who found no wrong doing deserving of death. When Jesus was accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered not a word, and Pilate marveled at this. Pilate asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews. Jesus said, "Thou sayest it." Then Pilate went out to the people and told them he found no fault in this man (St. Luke 23:4), and they grew more angry.

Pilate found out that Jesus was a Galilean in the area that King Herod ruled, so Pilate sent Him to Herod who happened to be at Jerusalem. Herod had wanted to see Jesus for a long time, and he hoped to see a miracle performed by Jesus. He knew that was possible with Jesus.

Herod asked Jesus many questions and Jesus said nothing. Meanwhile the chief priests and scribes accused Him, and Herod with his soldiers despised Him. They put a beautiful purple (this color represents royalty and power) robe on Him, mocked Him, and sent Him back to Pilate.

Pilate still could find no reason to put Jesus to death so he said, "I will have Him beaten and release Him." He hoped that would be enough for the people, but they shouted, "Away with Him. Crucify Him, and release unto us Barabbas!" This man was a murderer! Pilate, still wanting to free Jesus,

said, "Why? What has He done?" The people shouted louder, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

There was nothing Pilate could do, so Jesus was led away to the place of crucifixion, namely Calvary. There He was crucified with two criminals. One said mean things about Jesus and the other rebuked Him and said, "We deserve our punishment, but this man has done nothing wrong." He asked Jesus to remember him when He went to His kingdom. Jesus told him, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise." That is so beautiful. Did Jesus stay dead on the cross? No, because there is no life there. He came back to life, a new life. He was victorious over the grave, over death. The grave had no power to keep Him. What a wonderful thing Jesus did for us by dying and shedding His blood as a payment for our sins, but more special than that He arose from the dead so we can be victorious too, and have life in Him.



The Death of Jesus James Tissot

Let us remember what Jesus did for us and praise and thank God for His Son and the promise of life eternal. What a great and wonderful God we have. Let's pray that we will be able to love and serve Him all our days. May God bless each of you children with His love this Easter season and always. ~

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

Matthew 28:1-8

AS THE DEATH OF CHRIST had been attended by supernatural signs to call the attention of the whole world to the redemption then being accomplished upon Calvary, so His resurrection was accompanied by an uproar in nature which pointed to a most unusual happening. In the late hours of the Sabbath-day, the seventh day of the week, as this day was about to merge into a new Sabbath-week, that is, very early on Sunday morning, before the sun rose, the same faithful women that had watched the burial of the Lord went out to see the grave and to take the first steps in the process of embalming the Lord's body. They had not yet reached the garden, when a mighty quaking shook the earth, caused by the fact that an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled away the stone from the door of the tomb, which he then used as a seat for himself. Not to open the grave for Christ was he come, but to show the empty grave to the whole world, to give absolute and undeniable evidence of the fact that the resurrection had taken place in spite of stone and seal and watch. The evangelist says that the appearance of the angel was like lightning, and his garment was white as snow. It was a fearful apparition to the superstitious soldiers to gaze upon one of the holy angels of God. It overwhelmed them; they fell over in a faint, and became as dead men. When God wants to carry out His will with regard to the salvation of mankind, no sinful man, no enemy, may resist Him. The resurrection of Jesus was the seal and final proof for the full atonement gained for the whole world, and all the efforts of the Jews and of Satan to hinder it were unavailing.

Paul Kretzmann

Right and Wrong Fire

Andrew Mickelsen, translated from Kristillinen Kuukauslehti - September 1954
Submitted by Anders Sundqvist; Brush Prairie, Washington

I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?

Luke 12:49

THESE WORDS OF THE LORD lead us to consider what kind of fire the Lord came to kindle, that He desires it to burn. Didn't John the Baptist exclaim: *I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.* (Luke 3:16) Apostle Paul writes in Romans 5:5: *And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.* Didn't Apostle Paul correctly understand this matter, that then the fire of love started to burn in our hearts when the Holy Ghost was given unto us? It is the Lord who baptizes with the Holy Ghost and fire.

The fire that the Lord kindles is wonderful and precious. Oh blessed soul, in whose heart this fire has been kindled, it is blessed and Heaven worthy. It is not ashamed of the Lord Jesus, or of His Gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation. Neither is he ashamed of God's children, as Apostle John writes: *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.* (1 John 5:1)

Neither is he ashamed to confess his faith or to tell from what a deep pit the Lord helped him up, and how God led him, awakened his conscience, revealed God's kingdom on earth, giving him courage to come to God's children pleading for forgiveness for his sins. He is not ashamed to say what he has received of the Lord, or what people God used as His mouth and voice when He gave him His gift of grace. This is because the fire of God's love is burning in his heart. He loves God and his neighbor and for that reason, he boldly thanks God for His grace and love and he exhorts his neighbor to repentance and to be partaker of God's grace. This is no strange or foreign fire, but is God's kindled fire and it is scriptural. God's Word thus commands us to love God and our neighbor, and the children of God have done this throughout ages. With this fire the children of God can boldly approach the Lord, not fearing the wrath of God. But woe unto those poor souls who carry a strange fire before the Lord, for with them it will go as with the sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, who were killed by the fire of God (Leviticus 10:1-2).

There are many fires burning in the world today that the Lord through His Spirit has not kindled. The fire of hatred rages through the world, that the flames of war reaches even



to heaven. This fire is not fit to be carried before God, since it does not burn with love towards God and his neighbor, but there are many gathered around this fire. In the world burns the fire of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life and there are many that warm themselves there and enjoy those fires. Tell me, can your heart be kindled with love to God and your neighbor in the presence of those fires? In the world there are strange fires burning in manmade churches and parsonages, where the people warm themselves and adore

beautiful churches, festive worship services and gifted singers and speakers. Flesh and blood enjoy all these, but still the heart remains unfruitful. No love to God and his neighbor is kindled. The enemy of the soul wants to bring strange fires into Zion and he has kindled them, but beloved, let us not warm ourselves by these fires, because if we do, it will be as unfortunate as it was with Peter in the courtyard of the high priest, that we end up denying Jesus.

Dear Heavenly Father, grant us that grace that we would be gathered at the fire that He has kindled and there warm ourselves, that fire, that is burning in Gethsemane, on Calvary, and the place of the Resurrection. There the fire of love that the Spirit kindles burns so clearly and brightly, that even that heart that has been cooled by the winds of this sin-defiled world can be warmed. And there we can behold how the sin debt was paid, God and man were reconciled, and grace and salvation was earned. There the unquenchable love and bottomless grace were joined and the blood of Jesus starts to sing so warmly that the soul starts to listen to the voice of the blood. It says: *thy sins are forgiven thee!* Believe and possess it for yourself, since the debt of sin has been paid, the law has been fulfilled, the devil, death and hell have been conquered. Has the heart begun to warm? Is the sea of grace opened? Do you see Jesus standing on its shore? Aren't the coals red? Red as blood! Approach Him, receive the food that is offered by faith, then your soul will be strengthened and your heart will start burning with love that you can say like Peter: *Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.*

May the Lord grant that we like Peter could feed Thy sheep and lambs, that Thy flock would stay united together around the Good Shepherd who has bought us with His own blood. He wants to bring us to the green pastures and the clear waters where we can eternally rejoice in His presence. Amen.

“Come to the Table”

June 27-30, 2019

The Kingston Apostolic Lutheran congregation invites you to attend the 111th Annual Convention of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America. Devotional services will be held Thursday, June 27 through Sunday, June 30, 2019 at Saint Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

***Come to the table; Come, join the sinners who have been redeemed.
Take your place beside the Savior; Sit down and be set free. Come to the table!***

-Sidewalk Prophets



Red + Red = White

Lois Matson
Yacolt, Washington

IT IS BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION how the red blood of Jesus washes away the red stain of sin, leaving the sinner as white as snow. Naturally speaking, if you wash a garment with blood, it does not come out sparkling clean. But by the miraculous operation of Almighty God, the pure and holy blood of Christ washes away the crimson stain of our sin, making us pure and holy in the sight of God. Only the revelation of the Holy Spirit can bring understanding of this biblical truth. We can't reason it out with our human minds.

The Prophet Isaiah writes of our sins being as scarlet: *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.* (Isaiah 1:18)

The Apostle John writes that Christ loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood: *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:1-6)

Later John describes the multitudes dressed in white robes, made white in the blood of the Lamb:

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about

the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.



Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.
~ Isaiah 1:18 ~

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. (Revelation 7:9-17)

How precious is the blood of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, how mighty to remove the red stain of our sin and make us white as snow. How

operative to bring the dead to life. How worthy is our God of all blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might!

The sin stain of the whole world is washed, and the wrath of God is satisfied. He has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). Only those who have heard and believed the Word receive the life-giving promise of that Word. How urgent, then, is the proclamation of the Gospel, the ministry of reconciliation? Jesus Christ is coming for His own. The skies will open and the eternal Lord who was yesterday, who is today, and who will be tomorrow will come in the clouds:

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. (Revelation 1:7-8)

How can we keep the Good News to ourselves? ~

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Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

Martin Luther

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands
For our offenses given;
But now at God's right hand He stands
And brings us life from heaven.
Therefore let us joyful be
And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of alleluia. Alleluia!

No son of man could conquer death,
Such ruin sin had wrought us.
No innocence was found on earth,
And therefore death had brought us
Into thralldom from of old
And ever grew more strong and bold
And kept us in his bondage. Alleluia!

Christ Jesus, God's own Son, came down,
His people to deliver;
Destroying sin, He took the crown
From death's pale brow forever.
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns;
An empty form alone remains;
Its sting is lost forever. Alleluia!

It was a strange and dreadful strife
When life and death contended.
The victory remained with life;
The reign of death was ended.
Holy Scripture plainly says
That death is swallowed up by death,
Its sting is lost forever. Alleluia!

Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree—
So strong His love—to save us.
See, His blood now marks our door;
Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia!

So let us keep the festival
To which our Lord invites us;
Christ is Himself the joy of all,
The Son that warms and lights us.
Now His grace to us imparts
Eternal sunshine to our hearts
The night of sin is ended. Alleluia!

Then let us feast this Easter Day
On the true Bread of heaven;
The Word of grace has purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed
He is our meat and drink indeed.
Faith lives upon no other. Alleluia!

MEETING NOTICE

The 111th Annual Meeting of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America will be hosted by the Apostolic Lutheran Church of Kingston, MN and will be held on June 27th at St. Cloud State University in the Atwood Center, 651 1st Ave. S., St. Cloud, MN 56301.

In accordance with the By-Laws, the Annual Reports will be read; the members of the Central Board, the Eastern Mission Board, the Western Mission Board, and the Southern Mission Board will be elected. All matters will be considered and acted upon. Congregations are requested to send their delegates to this meeting.

The schedule of meetings and services are as follows:

- Tuesday, June 25
 - Ministers Meeting
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Apostolic Lutheran Church,
71580 CSAH 27, Kimball, MN, 55353
- Wednesday, June 26
 - National Sunday School Meeting
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
and Eastern Mission Meeting
3:00 PM
Apostolic Lutheran Church,
71580 CSAH 27, Kimball, MN, 55353
 - Opening Service 7:00 pm
Apostolic Lutheran Church,
71580 CSAH 27, Kimball, MN, 55353
- Thursday, June 27
 - Annual Business Meeting
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
St. Cloud State University
Atwood Center
Foreign Mission Business Meeting
will immediately follow the
Annual Business Meeting

Devotional services will be held in the morning, afternoon, and evening, beginning on Thursday, June 27 through Sunday, June 30 at the St. Cloud State University, Atwood Center Ballroom. Ministers, members, and the general public are invited to participate in these services. The meetings will be held in conjunction with the devotional services.

*On behalf of the Central Board
of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America,
Gary Bertram, Chairman
David Myllymaki, Secretary*