

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

April 2019

The old testament prophet Isaiah prophesized of the life and death of our Savior so accurately. The message of the great love of God thru the life and death of His Son Jesus for our redemption was so clear in Isaiah 53: 1-12. "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Dear friends, as we consider the marvelous happenings of Good Friday and Easter we see the loving heart of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the Joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. This is the example that we as God's children have been shown. Part of this verse talks about joy. Our Savior endured all of this and it brought Him joy. Do we endure our cross daily with a joyful heart? Luke 18: 31-33 "Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again." Have we followed our Savior to the cross where we receive death to the old man but more amazingly where we receive forgiveness and life thru the shed atoning blood of Jesus?

The promise that is spoken of and shown to us in the glorious happenings of Easter is the fulfillment of the Resurrection which gives us a lively hope of eternal life. We are not left to wonder if this journey of faith is worth it. We see how God has prepared a way for us to one day be joined with God and His Son our Lord and Savior in heavens' unfathomable bliss for all eternity. We thank and praise Jesus for his example that he has given us and for his ultimate sacrifice for our redemption, and for the hope of eternal life!

In God's Peace,
Mark Traffie