

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

April 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter April of 2020 there is much concern in our world about the coronavirus. People and countries around the world are terrified. **Luke 21:9** But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. Commotions which means a state of confused, disturbance, racket, uproar, clamor, turmoil, confusion, chaos, unrest, agitation, havoc, furor, ruckus, upheaval, mayhem, melee, fuss, unrest. Do these sounds familiar? So, lets place our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. To the believer is this promise found in **John 3:16** 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.

So, as we remember the happenings of the Holy Week, we need to remember to place our trust in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. **Psalms 9:9** The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. **2 Corinthians 4:14** Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus and shall present you.

Such are the promises in God's word as we remember the happenings of the Holy Week when the Heavenly Father gave the greatest gift to mankind, his only begotten Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:24 Who his own bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. Jesus took our sin debt upon himself and the sin debt of the entire world and became the sacrifice on that cursed tree. So that we could be dead to sin and live unto righteousness. By his stripes the whipping he took our sins were healed. This we remember as we ponder the happening of Good Friday.

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. **Mark 9:31** for he taught his disciples, and said unto them, the son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, and he shall rise the third day. **Mark 10:34** And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again. **Matthew 12:40** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so, shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

1 Peter 1:3 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, (4) to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, (5) who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **Romans 4:25** Who was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification.

As we go into this Easter season with limitations placed on our gatherings in person, it is a reminder that we can't take for granted being able to gather around God's word. May God reveal the matters of Easter to us that God will be with his children even as we now must celebrate Easter services in a different way than we have been used to.

God's mercy and peace be with you.

Bill Seppala