

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

May 2022

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter the third month of the invasion of Ukraine I'm reminded of God's goodness and the blessed lives we lead in this country we live in. But something about the way the Christians in that war-torn country have shown their love for each other and for Christ is quite striking. How many videos have we seen of Christians singing hymns in the midst of bombs falling and rubble all around them as their homes are reduced to smoking ruins?

It seems their suffering has caused their faith to be strengthened. This shouldn't surprise us, as we remember Job, in the midst of tremendous suffering, gave to God right praise and thankfulness. But we in America have been blessed for decades with peace and prosperity. And with each passing year the people turn from God. Christ is pushed out of our lives, substituted with other things.

Don't misunderstand me, I don't wish for war. But I do marvel at the Ukrainian people's faith in such trying times. We would do well to do the same in this country, even if we enjoy peace and prosperity.

God's peace,

Drew Holmgren