

**“Lent, Easter and Beyond”
The words of Jesus to us all—
“Peace Be With You”**

What an amazingly different and totally “other” this season of Lent has been.

I had hoped to be able to conduct worship beginning with Palm Sunday with you. The fear of spreading this virus within groups of people was too much to even think of.

I hope in Jesus you are doing well and the effects of our self-imposed “Social Distance” have not weighed too heavy on you and yours.

As you may or may not know, I have been preparing sermons each week and as possible phone calling those I have numbers for. The issue of communication I faced was how to get the sermons and information to you was/is a true task. At present, the “Prophet” was our only means. We are working hard in the hopes of having a face page up and running for Easter so that even though isolated “so to speak” in our homes we still can worship and hear the precious Gospel of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Will get word to you on this--

In this month’s “Prairie Prophet”(Our Savior Lutheran newsletter) two of my sermons will appear. The first our journey in the mostly wilderness of this life. As we travel through Lent we are reminded to rely on God’s provision, protection and God’s sustaining presence to make our path straight, His word to guide, and our Lord to walk with us.

The theme of Lent from Hebrews 10:22 – “Draw close to God with sincere hearts.” This is the best way to walk through times of great changes and challenge.

We draw close in prayer, devotions, reading God’s word and learning God’s ways through hearing His word and listening as we hear the voice of our Shepherd Jesus. “Peace Be With You.”

This present sermon speaks about “Easter and Beyond.” Oh, how I wanted to be with you all through Lent, especially Holy Week, to share with you the Joy of Palm Sunday of Jesus last week of teaching and entering into the cross and Jesus gift to us of salvation. I had hoped to celebrate Maundy Thursday, the Last Supper, the new covenant “My Body, My Blood for the remission of sin” and as our Lord’s new command to us “To love one another as I have loved you” for this is the way we are together in Jesus.

I had hoped to share with you the solemn journey of Good Friday, the Seven Last Words, to hear our Savior’s promise to the thief and to us –“Lord remember me in your kingdom” and Jesus response, “Today you’ll be with me in Paradise.

I had hoped to share with you the joy of Easter Sunrise, our singing, our worship, our fellowship, our joy and I will as we share these moments of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ our Lord, for He comes to us in times of need and whispers to receiving hearts, "Peace Be With You."

Easter evening we find the disciples hiding from the plague of Rome, in fear of the future and the fear that the same fate of Jesus will be theirs. The world of the disciples was turned upside down. Without Jesus presence, life dead ends! The disciples had to be questioning what do we do now? Now that Jesus seemed gone, Roman soldiers so near, Jesus foes rejoicing in triumph over Him. What now?

Word was being passed around of resurrection. Mary Magdalene reported she had seen the Lord. Peter and John reported an empty tomb. Confusion and fear were fully present in them and in the twilight of day in the shadows of a dark room came a huge moment. Jesus suddenly was there in their midst and His words to His beloved friends and to us – "Peace Be With You."

Death could not hold Jesus and sins are forgiven at the cross. Jesus offers eternal life and in the "Social Distancing" of our homes, Jesus comes. He comes to us with His words of blessing – "Peace Be With You."

To you from my family and me, a most joyful Easter ever, wherever, however we hear these words – New life, hope, healing, our Lord's presence comes and suddenly darkness gives way to light, fear to joy, good news to share, a Lord to follow and "Beyond" to celebrate Eternal Life. The Good News of Easter wherever we are at, whatever we are experiencing, Jesus comes with His words of hope -- comes to sincere hearts.

"Peace Be With You"

Lord, we fervently pray the end of this virus in this world that threatens so many. We look to you, Lord, in repentance and faith. Lord, bring healing and hope and promise to your people. Hear our Prayer, Oh, Lord!

"Peace Be With You"

***A Blest Easter!
In Christ,
Pastor Bill Ahlfeldt***