

April  
2012

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
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*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:3-5)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

People without hope are in dire straits. They often have no energy, no happiness, no life and nothing to live for. But where there is hope, there is energy, joy, abundant life and every reason to live. The resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, from the dead has brought us countless blessings and hope is certainly one of them. We have hope as Christians because our Lord, who was killed by the collective sins of humanity on the cross on Good Friday, did not remain in the grave, but triumphantly rose three days later on Easter morning.

The fact of Easter separates Christianity from all other worldly religions whose hopes rest on fictional gods or on human founders who are either dead or soon will be. How disappointed the followers of these false prophets will be when all their hopes prove futile. They should have known that only a Lord who has overcome His own death could overcome theirs.

How happy we will be when Christ comes again and our hope is fully realized at our own resurrection. In our glorified bodies we shall, at last, behold our Lord face to face in a new heaven and a new earth.

It is my prayer that this flame of hope would be kindled in your hearts yet again this Easter as we gather to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and sing:

*He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives! (LSB 461:8)*

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Skelton

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Words from the Cross

**1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given**