

April
2014

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HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Words from the Cross

But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed. ... So it will be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. ... When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-44, 54 NIV

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach Easter, we turn once again to one of the most important teachings of the Christian faith, which is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Through His death and resurrection, our death has indeed been "swallowed up in victory."

The fear of death need plague us no more because death has been undone. Jesus' resurrection is proof positive that His victory over sin and the devil is complete. The message of the empty tomb is a wake-up call to the world that the man Jesus was and is God and Lord. Every other prophet, religious leader, or would be human god is dead or will die. Only Jesus died and rose again, and still lives. His resurrection validates Him and everything He taught.

The good news for us, and for all who believe in Jesus, is that by faith in Him we are promised a resurrection as well. We too will be raised up with new imperishable bodies, along with those we love who have died in the faith before us and with those who will come after. Because of Jesus' atoning sacrifice for us on the cross on Calvary and His glorious resurrection from the dead, we will see and touch and hold and kiss one another again.

It is this joyous message that we, as God's beloved children, have been called upon to share with a dying world. In doing so we are simply living out what we truly are: His resurrection people. We have already died and been raised to life with Christ in our Baptism (Romans 6:3-10). We proclaim it when we dine at His table (1 Corinthians 11:26). And we affirm it when we share His Holy Word with others, confessing Him and what He did. What do we have to fear? Death? No, it has been swallowed up in victory. Praise God and a blessed Easter to you all.



Yours in Christ,
Pastor Skelton