

# What I Love about Life ... and Heaven

Life is a gift, a free gift that is new every morning. At the end of the day, when life is filled with disappointments and frustrations, I know that I have one thing that is secure: my life in Christ.

The joy of my life is Christ. Christ came into the world so that we may have life in Him. As we eat His body and drink His blood, He is in us as we are in Him. We are what we eat — the Body of Christ living in the world.

Heaven is physically poured onto us in the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism. The gifts of heaven come to us in the Means of Grace. And this is what I love about heaven. I did not have to search this earth to find heaven. The Lord found me and made for me a place in heaven. (John 14:2-3)

We know that heaven is a place, and yet it is concretely realized in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This is something that even the Pharisees did not see. They asked Jesus when the Kingdom of God would come. *And Jesus answered, “Behold, the Kingdom of God is in the midst of you”* (Luke 17:21 ESV). Heaven was not some concept or idea that was only present in their minds and imaginations. The Kingdom of God — heaven — was incarnate and standing in front of them speaking to them. Heaven was present on earth.

In this sense, we have the best of both worlds: Heaven came to earth so that earth can go to heaven; Christ came to us, so that we could be with Him. He descended to my depths to lift me up to His heights to dwell before the Father so “that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity” (*Luther’s Small Catechism*, Apostles’ Creed, Second Article).

As we continue to walk in this earthly life, let us rejoice with all heaven and earth, for Christ came to carry us in our journey through this life until that glorious day of the resurrection of all flesh in which He will take us to be with the Father to dwell with Him forever. Thanks be to God that “life” loves us in Jesus Christ, that “heaven” loves us in Jesus Christ, and that Jesus Christ allows us to love life and heaven as we live in Him. A life of witness, a life of mercy, and a life together — this is all from Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory forever!

*Merciful Father in heaven, direct us to acknowledge Your presence with us in the Means of Grace so that we may live each day in joy and hope of eternal life won through Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Grace, mercy, and peace,  
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