

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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September 2020

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27

In this world, there is so much that brings unrest and lack of peace – injustice and violence; disease and death; job loss and financial insecurity; wars and rumors of wars. People have ideas of what will bring peace – the right political leaders and social equality; the right medicine and cure; the right economy and recovery; the right efforts to get along and create world peace.

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you." The peace Jesus gives is not the kind the world seeks. It is not external peace, maintained by political power or force of arms; it does not depend on ideal social conditions or comforts of life. Rather, it is the peace of heart Jesus alone can give as our Savior, who has come to win our peace with God, and give us everlasting life in His Kingdom.

In fact, Jesus spoke these words to His disciples at a time when they would experience the greatest injustice and violence this world has seen, and feel the most heart wrenching loss and unrest. It would not be merely something they saw in the news, which did not touch them personally. Rather, the very next day, they would watch their dear Lord and Teacher be unjustly arrested, condemned, beaten, and put to death. This would happen under the authority of corrupt political and religious leaders of the day. How it would seem that the whole world was in upheaval, and all that was good and right and meaningful was being lost, when the righteous Lord and Creator Himself was hanging on the cross, suffering and dying under the powers of evil.

How often, the news brings reports of all that is going wrong in the world around us; and we feel the unrest and lack of peace in our heart, insofar as these problems may touch us personally.

But the innocent suffering and death of our Lord on the cross reminds us that He came to deal with a greater problem than we will hear of on the news, an

evil which touches us all personally. It is the sin that infects us all like a disease, bringing death. It is the sin that corrupts our heart, from which come evil thoughts and every kind of hurtful word and action (Matthew 7:21-23). How often, by our own sin, we have become guilty of causing unrest in relationships with others around us. Not only that, our sin brings unrest before God as Judge of all.

Therefore, Jesus came to bring us peace – not as the world gives, not as we could ever give ourselves – but as only He can give as our loving Savior. It is first of all the blood bought peace of forgiveness and reconciliation with God which Jesus won for us on the cross. It is that peace He would announce to His disciples on the night of His resurrection, as they hid in fear of the world: *"Peace be with you."* As their living Savior, He gave them the peace of knowing He had won the victory over every evil, having conquered the power of sin, death, and Satan. Then He sent His disciples into the world to share His peace, by preaching the good news of His forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life with fellow sinners (John 20:19-23).

It is that peace which He gives us in His Gospel, having united with Himself by Baptism and faith. *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God"* (Romans 5:1-2).

Jesus says: *"My peace I give you... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."* Why should we fear, when we stand in God's grace, reconciled to Him in peace? The peace that is ours in Christ does not depend on changing conditions in the world around us; it does not depend on daily circumstances in our own life. He who has won our salvation and eternal life is with us, watching over us each and every day as our living Lord and Savior. Though this world passes away, yet we rejoice in the hope of eternal glory in His heavenly Kingdom.

In His peace,
Pastor Smith

"I'll Take the Cockpit... You Take the Tail."



During the morning of September 11, 2001, passenger planes were flown into the twin towers in Manhattan, and the Pentagon, as the world watched in horror. United Airlines Flight 93 had also been hijacked and was speeding toward Washington DC.

Pilots of the 121st Fighter Squadron of the D.C. Air National Guard got the order to scramble jets and intercept the hijacked aircraft. Cmdr. Mark Sasseville and Lieut. Heather Penney were the first to scramble their jets. Knowing that there was not enough time to have

their fighter jets armed with weapons to shoot down the remaining hijacked plane, Cmdr. Sasseville looked at Lieut. Penney and said, *"I'll take the cockpit...you take the tail!"*

It was virtually a suicide mission, but with the hope that they could successfully ram Flight 93, which they knew would result in the death of the passengers, along with themselves, but would possibly save hundreds more. To make matters worse, Lieut. Penney's father was an United Airlines pilot and she had no idea if she would be ramming her own father's plane.

They chose those impact spots hoping that it would minimize the debris field. A plane with no nose or tail would lose its forward momentum and likely fall straight out of the sky. Lieut. Penney later recalled: *"My concern was how do we minimize collateral damage on the ground."*

As it turned out, they never intercepted Flight 93 because the heroes on that doomed plane made sure they didn't have to... and the rest is history.

When we hear of heroic stories like that, we marvel at the willingness to make such a sacrifice for the benefit of others.

However, the sobering truth is, even if the passengers had been successful in gaining control from the terrorists and landing safely at a nearby airfield, still... they all would've died... eventually... as all must do.

Sadly, death strikes all people of all ages, of every nationality, because that's what sin brings into our world. Paul made this abundantly clear that *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"* and, *"the wages of sin is death."* (Rom. 3:23, 6:23) – And no amount of good deeds, good intentions, or even a fleet of heavily armed fighter jets can save us from our doomed situation.

But seeing that we had no hope of ever saving ourselves, our gracious God scrambled His only Son into action that would bring salvation to mankind.

The plan included Jesus willingly taking His sinless life to the Cross, to shed His blood, in order to cover all our sins. He became sin for us and sacrificed Himself so that He could pay the price that our sins demanded, and give to us His life-saving forgiveness!

With Christ's resurrection victory comes the promise: All who call upon His Name in faith, receive the full forgiveness of all their sins, a new life now, and a heavenly life that lasts forever!

Repent of your sins, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and receive all the life He has to give!



(From our Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Board for Home Missions)

September 2020

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Pentecost 14</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Voters Meeting After church	7 <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Gabriel Smith</i>	8	9	10 <i>Happy Anniversary</i> <i>Richard & Margaret</i> <i>Howard</i>	11 <i>Patriot Day</i>	12
13 <i>Pentecost 15</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	14 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Philip Smith</i>	15	16	17	18	19
20 <i>Pentecost 16</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	21	22 <i>Fall Begins</i>	23 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Susan Reeder</i>	24	25	26
27 <i>Pentecost 17</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	28	29	30 <i>St. Michael</i> <i>and All Angels</i>	<p><i>“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”</i></p> <p><i>John 14:27</i></p>		

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