

The Innocent Delivered up for the Guilty

Each year at Easter, the thoughts of God's children are drawn to the events which have made this time so very special. Let us once again prayerfully revisit the happenings that have made all things new for every believer.

We are reminded in God's Word that it was the custom of that day for the Roman governor to release a prisoner unto the people at this particular time of the year. Pontius Pilate therefore, on the feast day, finding no fault in Jesus, who was falsely accused and imprisoned, hoping to set him free, offered the people a choice between two prisoners. One was Barabbas, a known murderer and the other was the innocent Jesus.

Surely one would say the obvious choice of the people would be to allow the innocent to live among them and the guilty to receive his due punishment. However, the self-righteous, unbelieving priests and church elders convinced the people to seek the release of the wicked Barabbas and demand crucifixion for Jesus. The innocent was thus delivered up to be crucified and the guilty was set free. With the natural mind one would be quick to say, Barabbas the murderer, along with all those who crucified Jesus are themselves worthy of death. Is this judgment fair? To our minds it certainly would seem so. Those wretched men were so evil and sinned so grievously. Surely they were undeserving of any consideration for compassion or pardon. After all, look at the very nature of their deeds. They delivered up the innocent instead of the guilty; the one who healed their sick and did only good in their midst they crucified. Such evil ruled their hearts. Although it is obvious no greater injustice could have taken place, we recognize all this was according to God's plan for the salvation of the souls of men. Jesus said, ***"--- To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."*** John 18:37

Now we must ask the most important question. Who were those sinful souls who would rob, murder, or demand death for an innocent one? Dear friend, portrayed in Barabbas, the priests, the elders, and the frenzied mob are you and me. We are those who covet what others have and steal from both God and man. We are those who harbor hatred toward our fellowman. We

are those who would stir up bitterness and thus cause many to become defiled. We seek harsh and wrongful judgment against others. Do we recognize that we are guilty of these things and much more? Therefore we are guilty of crucifying the Son of God. Rightfully judged of sin, we deserve to die and be eternally separated from our righteous God. ***"For the wages of sin is death; ---"*** Rom. 6:23 Are we not sinners as was Barabbas? Where would our hope be today if there was no pardon for such sinners? But behold, thou guilty

Barabbas, you need not languish in the dark prison, bound in the shackles and chains until you pay with your life for your evil deeds. ***"---But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*** Rom. 6:23 The innocent Jesus has willingly taken upon himself all your sins and given his life on the cross where you and I should have hung. There he suffered and died that you and I might live.. He has not judged the guilty with righteous anger or with vengeance, but even today he intercedes before the father in behalf of the guilty, crying, ***"---Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.---"*** Luke 23:34

Rejoice with me dear fellow sinner, we have been set free. The innocent was delivered up for the guilty by the love of God for you and me. Today, by faith, all who have been washed in the precious blood of Jesus for the remission of their sins, can believe them truly forgiven. What a wonderful, wonderful Savior who would die on the cross for me. Not only did he die on the cross for our sins, but he arose victorious over death, hell, and the power of the devil. Our victory then, is in his meritorious work alone. Thank you Father, for thy mercies ... In faith I now behold thee... We wait for a great and glorious day. Jesus promises all who believe, ***"--- I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am , there ye may be also. John 14:2-3"***

Thank and praise his holy name, dearly redeemed. We are resurrected unto a newness of life with Christ Jesus our Lord. Easter dawns anew for me and for you. May you have a most blessed Easter.

Ken Storm – pastor

April 3	Ken Storm	7pm Good Friday
April 5	Ken Storm	Holy Communion, Easter Sunday
April 8	Finnish Minister	7pm
April 12	Nathan Ruonavaara	
April 19	Ken Storm	Medical Care 2pm
April 26	Chad Kuivanen/ Jesse Matson	Potluck Meal following service

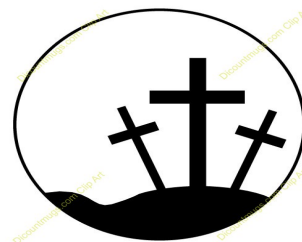
Online Broadcasts

From our webpage: <http://www.tapiolachurch.org/> you will see the mixlr live audio – we will be 'live on the air' during our church services. Previous sermons are archived.

TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Looking Ahead

May is spring cleaning month at the church.

Fall/Winter Worship Schedule

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:45am

Sunday Service 11:00am.

Wednesday Bible Study 7pm