

**At Easter Time**

Each year at Easter time the "Christian" nations of the world commemorate the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ. This tradition has been carried from one generation to the next for centuries. Although this tradition is wonderful, and cannot be spoken against, we recognize for many it is simply that; a tradition. As God's children, let us never allow this holy event to become merely a tradition in our lives. It is much too precious to be taken lightly. In this post Easter message may we continue together in considering God's great love for all.

God sent His Son into this sin-cursed world to save lost and fallen mankind from their sin. The scriptures teach us that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 Can we truly understand that we, as individuals, who deserve nothing but punishment because of our sinfulness, have received the unmerited favor of our loving God? It is only when we recognize what we are and that it was out of His great love that He has called us, by the gospel, that we can truly begin to comprehend how great His grace has been toward us.

Dear pilgrim traveler, may we who here must journey by faith, be reminded today of those sad and yet wonderful events which took place so long ago at Eastertime. Christ loved us so much that while we were yet sinners, alienated by sin and unbelief, He took all our sins upon Himself. Our incomprehensible sin debt of ten thousand talents, which was impossible for us to repay, He so willingly took upon Himself and bore them on the cross of Calvary. There Jesus was crucified so that we might be set free. No longer a captive in the proverbial land of Egypt, no longer shackled there in the bondage of sin, no longer oppressed by the harsh taskmaster, but now set free. Jesus said, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36 We have been set free not because we are deserving, not that we merited God's favor or because we earned the right to this freedom, but, dear friend, it was because God loved sinners like you and me. Jesus once said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you,---". John 1 5:16 How humbling a matter this becomes in the heart of His child when we consider how great God's love is for sinners. "Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan. Oh, the grace that brought it down to man. Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span, at Calvary." "For he hath

made him (Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Cor. 5:21

Freedom in Christ Jesus is God's gift to us. Let us therefore rejoice again today as we reflect on the events of Good Friday and Easter in the knowledge that in Christ's suffering and death, He atoned for your sins and mine with His holy, precious blood, culminating His victory over death, hell, and the power of the devil by His resurrection from the dead. Therefore, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rom. 3:24-26 How great a blessing God has preserved in His congregation of believers where, even yet today, the power of the gospel is preached to repentant sinners, namely that all sins are forgiven in the holy name of Jesus and in his atoning blood. With a childlike faith we cling steadfastly to the simplicity of the gospel of Christ and echo the words of the Apostle, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Rom. 1:16-17 He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the author and finisher of your faith and mine dear believer.

**Ken Storm - pastor**

**Worship Schedule**

Apr 5	Paavo Talonen/ Jonas Rahkola	7pm	
Apr 7	Ken Storm	11:00	Holy Communion
Apr 14	Nate Ruonavaara	11:00	
Apr 21	Ken Storm	11:00	
Apr 28	Chad Kuivanen/ TBD	11:00	Potluck meal following

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**We are on the web!** Each newsletter is archived, sermons, and the church schedule may be found on our website:

<http://www.tapiolachurch.org>

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter thru email, please send your email addresses. We try to limit the number of paper copies going to a household, but there is no such limit for email addresses! Thank you,  
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