

Behold We Go Up To Jerusalem

When God created the heavens, the earth, and all that was therein, including man, His work of creation was finished. Looking upon all that which He had made brought Him satisfaction and pleasure for it was good. As we behold His perfect creation, can we not also agree, indeed it is good.

Mankind, in the persons of Adam and Eve were also created perfect and in God’s image. But because they were disobedient to God’s warning and ate of the forbidden fruit, they sinned, and thus forever altered the perfection of all who would come after them. God had warned them that in the day they eat of that fruit they would surely die. How it must have grieved the heart of our Heavenly Father to see this pair, who He loved so dearly, fall victim to the enemy of the soul. Through their disobedience sin and death had now entered into the world. “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Rom. 5:12 The joy of His creation was now tarnished. But God, who created man to be His joy in time and in eternity, could not bear to see His created children eternally separated from Him by sin. Thus, out of His great love, He sent His only begotten Son into this world to redeem mankind from the horrible consequences of sin. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Rom. 6:23

God’s innocent Son, Jesus, who knew no sin had to take upon himself the sins of the whole world. Yes dear friend, your sins and mine were also laid upon Him. He did not complain that it was unfair that He should have to suffer and die for sinners like us. Knowing the consequences of our sins would be His to bear, He said to his disciples, “Behold we go up to Jerusalem ---“ Matt. 20:18. There He willingly laid down His life for you and me. There He shed His innocent blood to the very last drop for sinners like you and me. When mockers and scorners railed on Him as He hung upon the cross, He did not counter, but instead pleaded in their behalf unto our righteous God, “Father forgive them; for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34 Jesus thus so lovingly fulfilled the holy and righteous law of God in our behalf. He died alone for you and me. That which we could never accomplish to appease the wrath of God for our sins, He accomplished for us with His own life’s blood. The atonement for our sins had now been made, “And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.” Have you, dear friend, found it needful to repent of your sins and to hear the wonderful proclamation by God’s

servants that they are truly forgiven in the holy name and atoning blood of Jesus?

When cleansed from our sins by the blood of Jesus we behold the power of His resurrection in that we are raised from death to life and unto an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Let us therefore thank and praise Him for His goodness and mercy which endures forever.

Pray dear friend that all who today remain in unbelief would hear the voice of the Saviour in this time of grace bidding them, “Behold we go up to Jerusalem,” that they too, may witness the suffering, the death, and the resurrection of the innocent lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world. Our prayer is that many, beholding the love that drew salvation’s plan, would repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ unto the salvation of their own undying souls. Dear unsaved friend, why do you wait, the ark’s door’s still open, won’t you come in?

All of these things we believe to be true, but it is also true that unless we become partakers of these truths, and believe by faith in the redemptive work of our Lord Jesus Christ in our own hearts, these truths remain unclaimed and we then remain unsaved.

Let us pray that God would reveal our own hearts to us this Easter season that we might examine ourselves honestly in the light of His Word to see whether we are in true living faith or if our spiritual life has taken a divergent path. If we find that Jesus yet lives by faith within, let us thank and praise Him for His goodness and mercy. If however we find that all is not well within, let us with haste, flee unto His throne of grace and cast our sins and self-will on the altar of His mercy that we may be restored to the fullness of joy and our hope rekindled. How sweet then does the name of Jesus sounds in the believers ear, here in time, and then in all eternity.

May you have a blessed Easter,

Ken Storm – pastor

Apr 1	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
Apr 8	Nathan Ruonavaara	
Apr 15	Ken Storm	
Apr 22	Charles Korhonen	Potluck meal following
Apr 29	Ken Storm	

Winter Schedule

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9:45am Church at 11am

Bible Study at 7pm on Wednesday.

Church Cleaning:

April Pete & Gail Olson

Online Broadcasts

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

TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 531
Houghton, MI 49931