

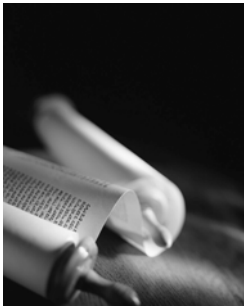
Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE
PROCLAMATION OF THE
WORD OF GOD



Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

JUNE 2010



BEHOLD YOUR GOD!

The book of **Isaiah** is a wonderful book. Many of my favorite verses are recorded in this book. I'd like to list a few of them here:

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:18)

Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. (Isaiah 6:3)

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. (Isaiah 12:2-3) Read all of chapter 12.

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? ... But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:1, 4-6)

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. (Isaiah 55:1)

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD... (Isaiah 61:1-2) Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool... (Isaiah 66:1)

Before we go into the 40th chapter, I would like to point out some interesting facts about this chapter and the whole book of Isaiah. The book of Isaiah has 66 chapters, just as the entire Bible has 66 books. Also, there are 39 chapters before chapter 40, just like the Old Testament has 39 books. Those first 39 chapters are written in prophecy style similar to the Old Testament in general. Starting with chapter 40, Isaiah becomes the book of comfort, like the New Testament. Also, starting with chapter 40, there are 27 books, just like the New Testament has 27 books. Our God is surely a God of order!

Now, as we look into chapter 40, please read verses 1-11, and preferably the

**Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,
saith your God.**

entire chapter, in Jesus' name! We will not look at this portion from a historical perspective, but rather from the perspective of how this applies to the hearts of men today.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Our God is a God who wants to comfort us when we need comforting. When we are in times of mourning, times of hardship, times of financial distress, times of hunger, or in some other season, God wants to comfort us! Notice the words "my people" and "your God." Such a God we have that He personally wants to care for us! He is our Father.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. Jerusalem was the center of the church and God's people in those days. Where is the center of Christianity today?

It is the church, which is in the hearts of His people who are believing in the complete redemptive work of the Lord Jesus. God wants to speak to our hearts, to our families, communities, and villages through His Word and the believers.

What is this most comforting message that we should CRY out? The message is that your sins are forgiven, your sins are pardoned; you have received of the Lord's hand double for all your sins! Not only is our sin forgiven, it is forgotten! Not only is our guilt removed, the power of sin over us can be removed! Sin is not only forgiven, it is forgotten and removed. There is not a more comforting message than that our sins are forgiven by and through the name and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. You remember John the Baptist. He was a messenger, a crier to point the way to Jesus. We too can be messengers! We can point to Jesus! Proclaim Him loudly to all! Let them know that there is a better way, which is life in Christ Jesus. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life!

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. God is the God of the mountains, which can be those good times in our lives, and He is the God of the valleys, which are those bad times in our lives. He is in control in all situations, and He can lift up and bring us down (humble us), if that is what is needed.

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. Our God is so mighty and powerful. He created all things. He is over all and above all. We are but grass; we pass away quickly. The Word of God shall stand forever! His Word is the Eternal Truth. His Word is true, yesterday, today and forever.

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings,

lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold your God! He is all powerful, and He is able and willing to save! Lift up your voice and proclaim Him! Cry out; be a witness!

Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. As mighty and strong as our Lord is, He is also tender and loving. Jesus paid it all; He is the Great Shepherd. He will reach down, pick us up, and carry us when we need to be carried! Do you hear His voice? Follow the Good Shepherd. At the end of life He will carry all who believe in Him all the way to our final resting place in heaven above.

Please read verse 12, and the rest of the chapter. It shows God's mighty power so clearly. Dear readers, ***Behold your God***, and wait on HIM! *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)*

May God bless you!

John Ruotsala

Foreign Mission Administrator

Please visit **www.themissionsite.com**



2010 ALC CONVENTION

The Hockinson congregation invites you to attend the 102nd Annual Convention of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America. Devotional Services will be held **Thursday, July 8th through Sunday, July 11th, 2010** at Skyview High School in Vancouver, Washington. We have information at **www.alcconvention.com** including lodging information. Please note: Information packets were not sent to each congregation; the website is the sole source of information. We pray for God's blessings as we organize this event and look forward to this time of fellowship.

Pastor Ron Holmgren and the 2010 Convention Committee

THE CONVENTION

Thinking back to the days of my care-free adolescence, I remember the excitement that would build as the time of "The Convention" would draw near. Not only could I take a legitimate road trip and see another part of the country, but I would also see old friends and meet new friends. Although my primary reasons for convening may have somewhat missed the mark of its intention, the time spent was indeed an oasis for a young man. Now, I am older. The thought of a road trip brings with it the reality of high-priced gas, motel availability, more miles on the car, etc. and the thought of spending a few days at the convention comes with adult responsibilities as well. How foolish to dwell on these things! We have a precious heritage to be thankful for, as we will be celebrating the 102nd anniversary of our annual Convention. I am looking forward to our meeting this summer: I don't have to make travel plans; it is still a great opportunity to see and meet friends; and the Word is spoken which brings comfort and solace to weary travelers.

There is a section within the collection of Psalms known as the Songs of Degrees or the Songs of Ascents. They are found from Psalm 120 through 134. Although the exact meaning of the titles is unknown, we can look at them in two ways: one is that these particular psalms were eventually read or sung while making pilgrimages "up" to Jerusalem, which was a natural ascent as well as a spiritual ascent as they approached the Holy City; the other is that these psalms were later read or sung while ascending the steps from the Court of the Women to the Court of the Israelites. All Jewish males were required by the Law to journey to the Temple in Jerusalem for the three great feasts of the year: Passover, Pentecost (or Weeks), and Booths (or Tabernacles). It was with great joy and expectation that these journeys were made, resulting in such praise and thanksgiving: *I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. (Psalm 122:1)*

The Songs of Degrees begin, *In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me. (Psalm 120:1)* As the heart of the Israelite of old cried out to the living God for mercy and grace, likewise does the heart of the child of God today. We can be

thankful that the Lord hears our cries, as His hand is not shortened, neither His ear heavy. He is mighty to save.

Now we are making and implementing plans for a gathering of like minds and hearts this summer for the Convention. Although we are not commanded to attend nor is the fellowship we have with the Father and Son by the Spirit limited to a certain place, we hope that you are filled with great joy and expectation of a journey like the patriarchs of old. Our travels are much easier than in antiquity, but they nonetheless require preparation, finances, time, etc. We also know that certain travels that we embark upon are like the journeys of old in that they both lead to that which fulfills and answers our needs. In the New Testament time of grace we are told of a journey that exceeds that which is commanded of the Law: *But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. (Hebrews 12:22-24)* This is the pilgrimage that we are on as we walk in faith by the grace of God. The confident assurance of God's blessing upon our gathering is also given within the Word as the last verse of the Songs of Degrees sings a comforting melody: *The LORD that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion. (Psalm 134:3)* We pray showers of God's blessing upon your travels, our preparations, and the time spent together with friends, families and loved ones; above all, we pray His blessing upon the proclamation of the Gospel, which flows from heaven itself. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)*

*In behalf of the Hockinson congregation,
God's peace!
Pastor Phil Wilson*

**The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in
from this time forth, and even for evermore.**

Psalm 121:8



GRACE AND PRAYER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In these weeks following Easter we focus on Jesus who *is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him*. He pleads for mercy in our behalf at the right hand of the Father where *he ever liveth to make intercession for [us]*. (*Hebrews 7:25*) "My heart shall e'er rejoice in this, that Jesus prays for me." (Ernest Edwin Ryden)

But some dearly-purchased soul may not dare come to Jesus, or know whether you even have His Holy Spirit. Dear troubled child of God, the Savior says, *him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out*. (*John 6:37*) Those yearnings in your heart after God are not your own production but the prayer of the Holy Spirit. Did not Jesus promise that the heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him (*Luke 11:13*)? Continue to pray no matter how feeble your prayers may seem.

**"Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire, That trembles in the breast."**

(James Montgomery)

The Holy Spirit of prayer makes His presence known in your breast with groanings that cannot be uttered (*Romans 8:26*). The Lord testified of a penitent Pharisee, "Behold, he prayeth!" (*Acts 9:11*) An angel comforted a fearful Roman commander: *thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God*. (*Acts 10:31*) The heart groanings of a wanton woman were heard by the Savior, for He told the skeptical Pharisee at dinner, *Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much*. (*Luke 7:47*) You see: if you do not pray you cannot be saved, for you have no need; but to those who know the plague of their own heart the Lord in heaven will hear and forgive (*1 Kings 8:38-39*; *Romans 10:13*).

When God does His work in your heart you will not remain secret. He who hears and honors prayer made in secret will, in His time, reward you openly (*Matthew 6:6*). Ananias was sent to his "brother Saul" to acknowledge the heavenly vision he received of Christ on the Damascus road, to lay his hands on

him and to baptize him. Peter was sent to declare the saving Gospel to the house of Cornelius and to baptize them. After Jesus informed the Pharisee of the sinful woman's true heart condition, He openly reassured her that her sins were forgiven (Luke 7:48).

We are unable to come to true prayer by our own efforts, but when God gives us a sight of our sin against His holiness we will pray. He has promised to pour out upon His people *the spirit of grace and of supplications*, with the result that *they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son...* (Zechariah 12:10) The apostle John says this prophecy finds its fulfillment in Jesus hanging on the cross for us (John 19:37). This is the proper end of prayer: to know nothing else for salvation but Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2). And *that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* (Romans 6:4) May His knowledge (Isaiah 53:11) cause us to continue instant in prayer (Romans 12:12).

**"O Thou, by whom we come to God, The Life, the Truth, the Way,
The paths of prayer Thyself hast trod: Lord, teach us how to pray!"**

(James Montgomery)

*Ted Matson
Yacolt, Washington*



The only spiritual light in the world comes through Jesus Christ and the inspired Book; redemption and forgiveness of sin alone through Christ. Without His presence and teachings of the Bible we would be enshrouded in moral darkness and despair. The condition of those nations without Christ, contrasted with those where Christ is accepted, reveals so marked a difference that no arguments are needed. It is an object-lesson so plain that it can be seen and understood by all. May the earth *be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.* (Isaiah 11:9)

Samuel Colgate

GOD'S LOVE

Dear Friends,

Because we have a heavenly Father who loves us, we have eternal life and we have Jesus Christ. We have Jesus Christ! God knew it was the only way, by the completed work of Christ, for us human beings to be able to go to heaven to live with Him. My grandfather, Andrew Wirkkala, used to say, "We are still on this side of heaven." Here, by the gift of faith, we can believe with our hearts, simply, that our sins are forgiven in Jesus' name and in His precious atoning blood. We have these "keys to the kingdom of heaven" because Jesus taught us this: *If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. (John 13:14)* I have always marveled that God made this possible so that even a little child can understand it.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (John 13:34) Jesus taught His disciples this at the time; He knew it was His hour that He should depart out of this world unto the Father. Verse 35 reads: *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Spring has come, trees are in bloom and it seems all of nature comes to life with celebration of the fact that Jesus lives! And because He lives we live too!

Let us always remember to think on heavenly things as Jesus asks us to. Think on things above and not on things below. This earthly life without Christ has no promises, but because of God's love we are promised eternal life!

*Carol Levijoki
Camp Verde, Arizona*

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

Dear Children of God,

As I was thinking about what to write, it seemed that I should not pass over Jesus' ascension to heaven. After Jesus' resurrection, He made several appearances to His disciples and was on earth another 40 days. It will soon be just that time of His final departure from His life on earth. You can find it in St. Luke 24:36-53. This comes at the end of our last story.

I WILL COME AGAIN

In our last story, the disciples were walking down the road to Emmaus when Jesus suddenly appeared and walked with them and they did not know who He was. Later in the story He revealed who He was and suddenly disappeared and the two disciples were left alone, and then they realized the man was Jesus. They went to find the rest of the disciples to tell them who they had seen. As they were speaking, Jesus appeared again and they were fearful. Jesus said, "**Peace be unto you.**"

The disciples think they are seeing a spirit and they are afraid. Jesus sees their fear and comforts them saying, "**Why are you troubled, and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle (touch) me, and see; for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see me have.**" And when He finishes speaking, He shows them His hands and His feet.

The disciples are so happy to be seeing their friend Jesus that they almost do not believe what they are witnessing. Jesus can see their doubt and decides they need another sign so they will believe, so He asks, "**Have you here any meat?**" They give Him some fish and honeycomb and Jesus eats some of it. Jesus wants them to see that if He was a spirit He would not be able to eat food.

Then He opens their understanding that they might understand the Scriptures. Jesus reminds them of all the things that have happened to Him, that were long ago recorded about Him throughout the Old Testament, how for our sakes He had to suffer and die and rise again on the third day.

He tells them that repentance (to turn away from sin) and remission (forgiveness) of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

As the disciples listen to their most loved friend, Jesus looks at them and says, **"And you are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry (stay) in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued (provided) with power from on high."**

Jesus promised a power that God His Father would send to them. They would not be able to do the Lord's work without that power. What is the power the disciples received and that we also have? If you don't know, you can find out next time.



Jesus leads His disciples out to Bethany. He lifts up His hands and says a blessing over them. While He is still talking, He is lifted up from the ground and carried up into heaven. When Jesus ascended there came two who stood nearby in white clothing (angels) and asked the men why they stood looking into heaven. The two said, "This same Jesus who is taken up from you will come back in the same way you have seen Him go (Acts 1:10, 11)."

We go back to our text and read: *And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. (Luke 24:52-53)*

Jesus came to this earth to fulfill His Father's plan. Even though it was very hard, He did it because He loves us so much and wants us all to live in heaven with Him one day. Yes, He will be coming back some day to take all His children who believe in Him to be with Him in heaven forever. I pray we will all keep the faith and be ready and waiting for that great return.

There was this little baby, born far across the sea.

He came into this world to die for you and me.

He arose again the third day and to heaven did ascend.

He's waiting for the Father to send Him back again.

But He will not be staying, but only to receive,

All those children who truly love Him, and in their hearts believe.

In heaven we'll be together never to be parted.

And that will be the beginning of the end of what God started. (GW)

God's peace to each of you,

Gwen Wilson

REASONING POWER OR REVELATION

Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken. And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God.. (Luke 18:31-43)

What a wonder that the blind man sat at the roadside believing in Jesus who he was not able to see! Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, which Jesus proclaimed and he heard and believed.

And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ. And he charged them that they should tell no man of him. And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men. (Mark 8:29-33)

It was too hard for fleshly reasoning because man's reasoning is opposed to the revelation of the Spirit of God.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. (Romans 8:16)

John the Baptist was to hear the Word so he would decrease and God would increase within him. May God be patient with us as we also need to grow in the faith of God. I am not to be above anyone else, being a sinner, revealed by the grace of God. We take to heart the true Word of God so the love and cares of the world would not choke out the Word from our hearts.

*God's peace and love,
Pastor Harry and Lois Clemetti
Bovey, Minnesota*

We know God only through Jesus Christ. Without this Mediator, is taken away all communication with God; through Jesus Christ we know God. All those who have pretended to know God and prove Him, without Jesus Christ, have only had impotent proofs. But to prove Jesus Christ we have the prophecies which are good and valid proofs. And those prophecies, being fulfilled, and truly proved by the event, indicate the certainty of these truths, and therefore the truth of the divinity of Jesus Christ. In Him, and by Him, then, we know God. Otherwise, and without Scripture, without original sin, without a necessary Mediator, we can not absolutely prove God, nor teach a good doctrine and sound morals. But by Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ, we prove God and teach doctrine and morals. Jesus Christ, then, is the true God of men. **Not only do we know God only through Jesus Christ, but we know ourselves only through Jesus Christ. We know life, death, only through Jesus Christ. Except by Jesus Christ we know not what our life is, what our death is, what God is, what we ourselves are.** Thus, without Scripture, which has only Jesus Christ for its object, we know nothing, and we see only obscurity and confusion in the nature of God, and in nature herself. Without Jesus Christ, man must be in sin and misery; with Jesus Christ, man is exempt from sin and misery. In Him is all our virtue, and all our felicity. Out of Him, there is nothing but sin, misery, error, darkness, death and despair.

Blaise Pascal

INTERCESSION

- Intercessor: one who intercedes; a mediator
- Intercession: the act of interceding between persons; prayer on behalf of others

The office of the intercessor was established in the garden when God promised the Savior who would bruise the serpent's heel. God, by this promise, said that One would intercede for fallen man so he wouldn't have to die eternally. Throughout the Scriptures we see the work of an intercessor.

In the Old Testament, God chose Moses to be an intercessor between God and man. God spoke to Moses on the mount and gave him the commandments engraved on stone. He also gave him instruction on how to build the tabernacle to be used as a place of worship. Moses then spoke to the people and explained what God had said for them to do. Even before the tabernacle was built, we see Moses pleading on behalf of the people. When Moses came down from the mount, the people had made a golden calf which they were worshipping. God threatened to destroy all of them. Moses fell on his face and reminded God of the promise that He had made to the forefathers. He pleaded with God to repent of His threat to destroy them. God respected the intercessory prayer of Moses and repented of the evil He thought to do unto the people.

The intercessory work was given to the priests. Aaron, the brother of Moses, became the first high priest. The priests would receive the offerings and burn them at the altar in the outer court. The sprinkling of blood also took place at the outer court. Once a year the high priest would go into the holiest of all and make intercession for the people. He would first confess his sins, and then the sins of the people that were confessed at the first altar. Then the high priest would sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat. All of this was a figure of Jesus who would, once for all, shed His blood for the remission of all sin.

Man could not make intercession to God by his own works. God sent His only begotten Son, the seed of a woman, to intercede as He had promised. To be able to intercede, the intercessor had to be without sin and be able to give His life as a sacrifice and shed His blood for the remission of sins. This

Jesus did on the cross of Calvary. In this act, He became the intercessor for all who desire to be saved. Not only did He die for our sins, but He ascended into heaven with His own blood to become our high priest. There is no end to this priesthood, as there was in the Old Testament.

We have many examples of His continued priesthood and intercessory work. Through the prophet Isaiah, He promised forgiveness to the sinner. *Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12)* The writer to the Hebrews confirms this promise. *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25)*

The priesthood continues today through His Holy Spirit as Jesus promised. *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever. (John 14:16)*

In *Exodus 19:16* God established the priesthood with these words: *And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. (Exodus 19:6)* In Isaiah, He also says, *But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. (Isaiah 61:6)* As ministers of God, His church continues to teach the priesthood of Christ by proclaiming His death and resurrection for the salvation of souls. We can be sure that He will intercede for us who have been washed clean in the blood of Jesus.

When the question is asked, "Who are these that are arrayed in white?" the reply will be, "They are those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." We are always encouraged to come boldly to this throne of grace and find help in time of need. May God add His blessing to His Word.

*God's peace,
Pastor Don and Vi Salo
New York Mills, Minnesota*

CONSIDER THE LILIES

Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (Luke 12:27)



Jesus, who knows the hearts of all men, spoke these words to a man who asked that He would intervene to settle an inheritance dispute between him and his brother. Jesus used this opportunity to teach an important lesson to this man and to all who were present, as well as to us today. He taught that a man whose heart is motivated by covetousness will always ask amiss because his thoughts are consumed in earthly things.

Jesus explains, through a parable, how futile it is for a man to place his trust in the material things of this world. By nature, we mortals are inclined to take comfort and assurance in the abundance of material goods we possess. This does not mean it is wrong to have material possessions, nor does it mean that we should not put forth our best efforts to earn our livelihood, but what it does mean is that if we covet these things, if they occupy our thoughts and our hearts and we begin to trust in them, they then become a god to us and are therefore sinful. Jesus said, *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Luke 12:34)* Perhaps we should honestly ask ourselves where our treasure is today. Is Jesus our priceless treasure? Does He abide in us by a living faith? All of our earthly possessions will one day have to be left behind because they are earthly, but Jesus is everlasting. The enemy of our souls delights in distracting us from God's Word, and materialism is but one of the many ways he employs to accomplish his wicked work, but, thanks be to God, greater is He who dwells in the believer's hearts than the enemy who wants to deceive and destroy us.

Jesus, now, would invite us to consider the lilies of the field in their beauty. God has created them, and He alone gives them increase. They flourish before His watchful eye and bring joy to Him and unto mankind. Not even Solomon with all his luxurious raiment could compare to the beauty of the lilies.

Dear friend, Jesus desires that, as the lilies seek the natural sunshine and the refreshing rain, we too, His spiritual lilies,

would seek the warm rays of the sunshine of His face and the refreshing rain of His wonderful Word of life that we may grow thereby. Why, then, should we become worried or covetous concerning the natural things of this life when Jesus has promised, *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)* Jesus also said, *Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)* Let us, therefore, believe that our heavenly Father will care for His own and daily watch over us. He who has clothed the lilies of the field has also clothed His own in the righteousness of His dear Son through His merits at Calvary. Pray, dear friend, that God would grant us childlike faith to trust in Him during these difficult times.

Should you be an unsaved reader, pondering the words of this brief message, perhaps you are troubled in heart because your life is built on the temporal things that you have accumulated and that mean so much to you, and you have been too busy to give thought to your eternal destiny. I would ask you, dear friend, where will you stand when the angel of death calls? Will all that you possess deliver your soul from the impending doom without the Savior? Perhaps Jesus is speaking to your heart today, urging you to consider His words as recorded in *Matthew 16:26, For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?* Today He still calls and offers grace and forgiveness to every one who will come to Him with a humble and contrite heart seeking true reconciliation. Here, in His living church on earth, the repentant one can hear the wonderful words of the Gospel proclaimed audibly to his yearning heart by the believers: all his sin and unbelief are washed away in the blood of our Savior, and by faith in His blood he is now made acceptable unto our righteous God. Thanks be to God for His love and mercy. Will you surrender all today for *...an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you? (1 Peter 1:4)* You, too, can be a bright lily in His heavenly garden.

*In His Service,
Pastor Ken Storm
Tapiola, Michigan*

MEETING NOTICE

The 102nd Annual Meeting of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America will be hosted by the Hockinson Washington Apostolic Lutheran Church and will be held on July 8, 2010 at Skyview High School in Salmon Creek, Washington.

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Annual Reports will be read; the members of the Central Board, the Eastern Mission Board, and the Western Mission Board will be elected. All matters will be considered and acted upon. Congregations are requested to send their delegates to this meeting.

The schedule of meetings and services are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, July 6 | Ministers Meeting
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Hockinson ALC, Hockinson, WA |
| Wednesday, July 7 | National Sunday School Meeting
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Hockinson ALC, Hockinson, WA
Eastern Mission Meeting
3:00 PM
Hockinson ALC, Hockinson, WA |
| Thursday, July 8 | Annual Business Meeting
9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Skyview HS, Salmon Creek, WA
Foreign Mission Business Meeting
Immediately following the
Annual Business Meeting |

Devotional services will be held in the morning, afternoon, and evening, beginning Thursday, July 8th through Sunday, July 11th. Ministers, members, and the general public are invited to participate in these services. The meetings will be held in conjunction with the devotional services.

*On behalf of the Central Board
of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America,
Wilfred Sikkila, Chairman
Gary Bertram, Secretary*

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Karl-Goran Valivaara of Haaparanda, Sweden

<u>July</u>		26	Rest/Travel
8-11	Convention	27	Pike, MN
12	Travel	28	Ironwood, MI
13	Tri-Cities, WA	29	Watton, MI
14	Portland, OR	30	Rest
15	Clatskanie, OR	31	Rest
16	Astoria, OR	<u>August</u>	
17	Vancouver, BC	1	Tapiola, MI
18	Seattle, WA	2	Travel
19	Travel	3	Brighton, MI
20	North Minneapolis, MN	4	Travel
21	Kingston, MN	5	Greer, SC
22	Spruce Grove, MN	6	High Point, NC
23	New York Mills, MN	7	Travel
24	Travel	8	New Ipswich, NH
25	Watertown/Lake Norden, SD	9	Ashburnham, MA

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LORD GOD ALMIGHTY

Bending before Thee, let our hymn go upwards,
Bright as the sunshine breaking from the darkness,
Thee we implore to guard us on our journey,
Lord God Almighty.

Guard us in toil when fainting in the noonday,
Guard us reposing under evening shadows,
Guard us when midnight walks abroad in heaven,
Lord God Almighty.

If the dread foe assail us with temptation,
Hear us, O Lord, and save us from the danger;
Oh, keep us pure, oh, lead us to Thy presence.
Lord God Almighty.

Glory to Thee, O Father Everlasting,
Glory to Thee, O Son and Holy Spirit,
One in Three Persons, Infinite, Unchanging,
Lord God Almighty.

John Duke Coleridge



Happy Father's Day!

Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, **as a father doth his children**, ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Hebrews 12:9-10