



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

OUR LIVING HOPE – OUR LIVING SHEPHERD!

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Easter is the continuous celebration that our Good Shepherd, Jesus, lives! His victory over sin, death and the devil is the truly gracious act that turns us back to Him and to His flock. During this Easter season here at International Lutheran Church we are meditating on *Our Living Hope* as we read through the admonition of the Apostle Peter in his first letter to the churches in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). Today, Peter, that pillar and “rock” of the church, reminds us again who is the Shepherd of our souls and just what He suffered to bring us back to Himself.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. We normally read or sing the 23rd Psalm - some of the most beloved words of Scripture. We also read from John 10 and Jesus’ own words that He is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. In the Epistle reading from Chapter 2 of 1 Peter, Peter concludes with this important reminder of who is the pastor and overseer of our souls, namely Jesus. These words come after a very important section of how we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, called to love not only the brothers, but even those in authority over us. Peter tells us that we should not be discouraged by suffering, especially suffering that comes because of our service to God and neighbor. Peter reminds us that Jesus gave us this example to walk in: just as He suffered for doing what was right, so we will also suffer. We are aliens, exiles and sojourners in this place. Our words and actions may even be seen as evil, just as Jesus’ words and actions were twisted and seen as evil. This does not mean that we should look for ways to provoke those in authority, but rather when we suffer we do not need to turn away but return again to Him who suffered for us.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Bible Class
(to be available online livestream)

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
(to be available online prerecorded)

THIS WEEK

Wed., 5/6 Bible Study
(to be available online livestream)

Consider the source of this pastoral admonition. In a moment of daring devotion, Peter sought to enter into the very courtyard where his Lord was being tried. While his Savior was silent in the face of false testimony, Peter’s mouth repeated clearly for all to hear, “I don’t know the man!” Peter failed and fell just as Jesus had told him as he denied his Lord three times. How is it that one can return? How is it that we the unjust can be justified? How is it that we the unrighteous can be made right again? How is it that shifting sand can become solid ground? Peter knew. Peter saw. Peter heard his Lord ask him three times by the shore, “Peter, do you love me more than these?” (John 21:15-19). Jesus suffered in order to bring us back to Himself. His gracious act not only changed Peter, but even you and me. “He himself bore our sins upon the tree...(and)...by His wounds, you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24). Just as Peter was forgiven, so, too, God forgives you and me.

Our Living Shepherd brings to us a *Living Hope*. Our Loving Shepherd restores our souls. His Resurrection calls us back to Himself. God strengthen you today as He works in you even through suffering to the glory and praise of His Name. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Carl

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

CHURCH OPERATIONS CONTINUE

Though we are not meeting in person, church operations still continue and to that end we encourage you to make use of offering your tithes and gifts via online giving. Giving in this way will be recorded for your personal end-of-year giving statement.

If you are unable or do not wish to give electronically, you may hold your offerings until we resume our normal worship schedule.

Thank you for your role in keeping ILC's ministry ongoing.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 UPDATE

While there have been recent changes to the restrictions being placed on church and other segments of the community in regards to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, there will still be **NO ONSITE SERVICE AT ILC THIS WEEKEND, May 3.** We will continue to use our current online service format as the principal form of corporate worship. Please watch *The Messenger*, the ILC Facebook page, and the ILC website for future updates and changes.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR GREETING!

Are you interested in recording a short video greeting to the congregation? Please let us know at seouilc.volunteer@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!

A special *thank you* to all who have been making use of the direct deposits in order to continue your giving to support the ministry of ILC.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Since our services have temporarily migrated to a virtual format, we will not be listing worship assistants here. However, if you are interested in serving as a worship volunteer for when we resume our normal schedule, please write to seouilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Thank you!

READINGS

May 3: 4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

OT	Acts 2:42-47
NT	1 Peter 2:19-25
Gospel	John 10:1-10

May 10: 5th Sunday of Easter

OT	Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60
NT	1 Peter 2:2-10
Gospel	John 14:1-14