



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org

July 5, 2020

Issue #704

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

ON THE ROMAN ROAD: FREEDOM FROM THE BODY OF DEATH!

“Oh, wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?” (Romans 7:24 ESV). Have you ever felt trapped? Truly stuck with literally no way out of the situation that you are in? Today at International Lutheran Church, we address this very common experience with these words from Romans 7, as Paul shares the freedom we have in Christ alone. As we are sent out *On the Roman Road*, we see again how we carry a message that is critically important for our lives today!

This summer we have been reading through the letter to the Romans and examining how Paul describes Christian life. Last week Paul described the purpose of our freedom in Christ with the words: “so that you might belong to another” (7:4). In this second half of Chapter 7 of Romans, Paul is honest to reveal the inner struggle that is a part of our new life in Christ. While we are powerless to change ourselves, Paul shows how we are freed by Jesus from the power and control of sin that reigns in and through our mortal bodies.

Two things need to be addressed as we look at this passage of scripture. First, the situation that Paul describes is not an abnormal one but rather part of our new identity in Christ. As a Christian, we now have a real battle going on inside. Second, these words are not an excuse to give in to sin or give up in despair, but rather the bold call to hold on to our only hope. Our sure hope of victory is through our Savior Jesus and Him only. The fact that the Christian life is a struggle and a “war” should not surprise us. Our reading last week from Jesus’ discourse to the Twelve sent to the tribes of Israel in Matthew 10 says quite clearly that His Kingdom does not bring peace but a very real separation and division, even within ourselves. Paul’s exhortations in other letters, such as Ephesians 6 concerning the armor of God and our need to be daily dressed for battle, is also a clear indication that the attitude is not one of defeatist resignation, but rather sober calculation of what we are up against. Luther popularized the three-headed enemy in terms of the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh. He exhorted his hearers to daily remember that they are baptized and to “drown

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9, 10, 11 *Socially Responsible Services* (three separate sessions; 40 minutes each; pre-register)

ANYTIME *Worship Service*
(to be available online prerecorded)

7:00 p.m. *Bible Study* (regularly scheduled at 9:00 a.m.; to be available online livestream)

THIS WEEK

Wed., 7/8 *Bible Study*
(to be available online livestream)

the old Adam” in that promise of God so that the new man would rise and daily be active in the world and relationships around us.

This message is still needed today even as we celebrate our independence (that is, Americans celebrating Independence Day on July 4). As much as we have liberalized our thinking in our modern independent lives, the reality of our flesh still catches us and takes hold of our very actions. “The good” we so hope to do, know to do, want to do...that we don’t do. But the thing we “hate,” the “wrong” we know we need to expunge from ourselves...that seems to keep on going with no end in sight. Paul describes this as a wretched, miserable state; literally a “body of death” from which we are powerless to do anything about. The contrasting conjunction “but” couldn’t come at a better moment. Indeed, Jesus’ appearance, His life, His death in the Body was for just such a proclamation of God’s action to change our final situation. Through death, He has swallowed up death. As we are freed from the bondage of the Law in His death, we are also freed from our lives of sin and death by His death. In Him we do find rest. This is why we daily put on the armor of God, daily remember our baptism, daily live in the hope of God’s victory for us. As we join in worship today and gather to hear His Word of victory in our lives, either online or through one of our *Socially Responsible Services*, we are called to live in this freedom we have in Christ and freely share this freedom in all the world where He sends us!

Pastor Carl

COMING AND GOING

A special blessing to those within our community who have already left or who will be leaving soon. May God go with you as you move on to new places of work, study, and life.

Do you know anyone coming to Seoul? If someone from your work, school or family is coming, let us know and we would be happy to reach out to them. We pray for the individuals and families who will be relocating to South Korea and look forward to finding ways to serve them.

THANK YOU! TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

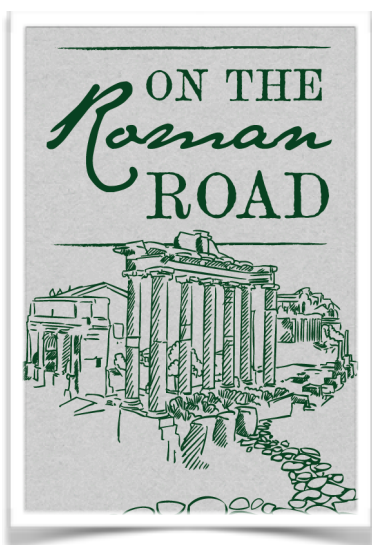
Pastor Carl would like to send a special *thank you* to all who have been assisting with the online and *Socially Responsible Services* - greeters, readers and singers. If you would like to participate in any way, please let us know at seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Taking care of all of these tasks is truly a group effort. Thank you!

LIVE AND ONLINE SERVICES

Please register if you plan to attend ILC's *Socially Responsible Services*. 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.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Pastor Carl's summer sermon series is based on our readings of Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome. If you have the time, you might find it helpful to read the NT lessons in advance of the Sunday service. May God bless our growth in the message communicated through Romans.



HAPPY
Independence Day!



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.

CITIBANK 260-00497-243-01

READINGS

July 5: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Zechariah 9:9-12
NT	Romans 7:14-25a
Gospel	Matthew 11:25-30

July 12: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Isaiah 55:10-13
NT	Romans 8:12-17
Gospel	Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

FLOWERS

DONATE FLOWERS TO A LOVED ONE

If you would like to purchase flowers for beside the altar in order to honor or gift to someone, the cost is ₩35,000 for a potted arrangement that can be taken away after the last church service. Place the donation in an offering envelope and write your name and 'for flowers for (date)' on the envelope. Place in the offering plate.

For further instructions or assistance, write to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com.



6/27: *Speedy recovery for James*
(from Martin and Sun)

7/4: *for Lisa Jung and her family*
(from Martin and Sun)