

yourself, what you value, how you live.

Don't let a virus determine you. For God's sake don't let money shape you. Your life is worth much, much, much more than any game. Why would you want fear, sadness, melancholy to determine you?

Jesus' offer is backed by his power and authority to do what he says. The storms of life will come and go. You'll feel overwhelmed at times. The rug will be pulled out from under you totally unexpectedly. The devil's passion is to destroy your trust in Jesus. The devil seeks that you'll suffer

the same fate as this arrogant, self-absorbed entity; wanting life but never feeling appreciated, left needing more, empty, anxious, regretful, needy.

Jesus says; 'Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and also trust in me.'

This week in your four by four groups see what bible readings you can share about the hope and life we have in Jesus. Over the next forty days share a bible reading, each day, to encourage,

support, comfort, expressing God's hope, love and delight in you. Expressing his amazing forgiveness, his promise of life in him – life to the full in him.

Don't give the devil the run of your life. Don't focus on all that depresses and robs you of joy. That's not what we believe in; is it? Focus on Jesus and all he offers. Talk with Jesus and invite him to share his words of hope, of life, of peace, of forgiveness, of mercy, of eternal joy, with you.

Today jot down one of those wonderful words from Jesus, adding a new one each day over the next forty days. Let Jesus bring a smile, not only to your face, but in your heart, because he's with you and you're in him.

## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

## 10 May 2020 EASTER—4 John 14:1-6



I invite you to grab your bible and look up John 14 verses 1-14. Ask the Spirit to speak to you through these words of Jesus. Please don't forget to jot down your thoughts, your questions, your ah ha moments. Give yourself time to reflect on what Jesus is saying.

I'd like to focus on the first verse. Jesus said; "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me."

Seeing I've got a copy of Martin Luther's sermon on this text. I thought I'd see what he had to say. Let's listen to what he wrote; "Therefore this consolation must also address itself to us. We must impress it on our hearts, use it, and strengthen ourselves with it when we feel grief and anxiety."

When I read that phrase it made me think of the

fear and panic created by the COVID-19 virus, along with the incessant media barrage, which feels to me like a campaign to create grief and anxiety. I might die, those I love might die, I might take the virus into one of the retirement homes. Fear is everywhere. Keep your distance. The continual message is one of fear, fear, and then fear. Look at all the deaths.

But here we have a promise that Luther encourages us to impress on our hearts, to use it, to strengthen ourselves with it when we feel grief and anxiety.

The thought pooped into my head; 'What am I going to believe?' I have a promise from God and the threat of a virus.

What am I going to build my life on?

Luther continued; "At such times we must hear

Christ speaking these words to us: 'What are you doing?' You surely will not be scared to death and *quiver* because of this! Be of good cheer and take heart."

I love that 'Be of good cheer and take heart' because in Jesus we have real hope. In Jesus we have a person to trust in, so we need not plunge into despair, into the depths of troubled seas.

"Even if the devil, the world, or your own conscience plague and frighten you, and even if you do not feel My (*Jesus*) presence, do you not recall that I foretold this long ago and left this comfort with you to strengthen and to preserve you?"

Do you hear Jesus saying words of comfort and hope to you at this time; as he promised? Jesus hasn't come to create

more fear and anxiety. What do you think Jesus wants to create in you; terror or joy?

Luther continues; "From these and similar words of admonitions of Christ we should also learn to know the Lord Christ aright, to develop a more cordial and comforting confidence in Him, and to pay more regard to His Word than to anything else which may confront our eyes, ears, and other senses."

Isn't that easier said than done! The horrors of life can shout a deafening roar at times. What I see, hear, and sense can seem far more real than Jesus. At times it seeks to consume me.

Then this thought came into my mind; 'Troubles pass; they come and go. Jesus is coming, never to go'. I think I'll focus on Jesus; his promise to come, and not just in the future, but also right now, when I need him. To come through the person of the Holy Spirit, to comfort, to give me a

cheerful heart, conscience and mind.

"For if I am a Christian and hold Him (*Jesus*), I always know that He is talking with me. And here and elsewhere I learn that all His words are intended to comfort me; yes, that all He says, does, and thinks is nothing but friendly and consoling words and works."

---

### Don't let your hearts be troubled

---

What a great truth to daily remind yourself about Jesus; the one who said, 'Don't let your hearts be troubled'. Not because serious things won't happen, but because he is with us. Jesus is with you, to comfort, to console, there as your friend, there in that wonderful relationship of love and affection that he has created through his life, sacrificial death and resurrection.

Every time I listen to the news and hear something depressing, maybe I could counter with; Jesus is with me. Jesus loves me. Jesus has defeated sin, death, and the devil. Jesus will return victorious. Jesus has sent the Spirit to be with me, now. In him I can rejoice and discover that rich and satisfying life his presence brings.

Daily I can remember Jesus' promises, so that I can be living them, today.

"Therefore it is undoubtedly true that mourning and a faint and fearful heart do not come from Christ. For He is not one to intimidate hearts and make them sad and despondent."

If you're feeling that way; intimidated, sad and despondent, who do you think is at work? What do you think they want for you? It's not Jesus, and it's not what he wants for you.

"Jesus came, laboured, and ascended into heaven to banish sadness and fear from the heart

and to bestow, instead, a cheerful heart, conscience, and mind."

"Happy is he who can learn this and really take to heart Christ's statement and testimony that it grieves Him (*Jesus*) sorely when He sees a Christian's heart sad or frightened." Jesus wants you to know deep in your heart that his passion for you is joy, life, an intimate loving relationship with him. Jesus comes to bless you, to bless you with his presence; don't be troubled, be

hopeful, be joyful, you're wanted, you belong, you're greatly loved and precious to your heaven Father.

"The devil. He indeed deceives pious hearts by disguising himself as an angel of light, as St Paul declares (2 Cor. 11:14) he displays himself as, and pretends to be, Christ Himself. But this is the label which identifies him: he invariably leaves his stench behind him, that is, a faint, fearful, and disquieted conscience... They are unable to

comfort and gladden a single timid conscience. They only confuse the heart and fill it with sadness and melancholy." (Luther's Works Vol. 24 page 12/13)

What do think would more reflects Jesus desire toward you, a smile or a frown? I often wonder why growing up I saw

---

### Trust in God, and trust also in *Jesus*

---

more frowns than smiles. People frowned on the way to Holy Communion, and looked down on a smile. Why did we think a frown was more holy, more in line with Jesus than a smile?

Jesus has come that you might live under his smile; 'Don't let your heart be troubled'. Jesus is smiling, smiling on you, for you, walking into all of life with you. Be of good cheer, rejoice in Jesus.

One reason to rejoice is that Jesus has prepared a

place for you in his Father's heart. So in Jesus, how do you think God, our heavenly Father thinks about you? You hold a place in his heart, you belong. That thought, that truth, brings joy to my heart. It puts a smile on my dial!

Have you noticed that want we are faced with is a question of belief?

Where do you place your faith?

Jesus invites you to place your faith in him; his life, his sacrificial death, his

resurrection, his promised return, the gift of the Holy Spirit – God with you personally, now. Jesus is inviting you to place your faith in him.

Did you hear that invitation from Jesus; "Trust in God, and trust also in me." (John 14:1) Life is an act of trust.

We all trust in something or someone, Jesus is inviting you to trust personally in him. To take him at his word, to let Jesus shape how you see