



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

OUR LIVING HOPE - FROM FALLING FLOWERS TO ETERNAL WORD

For "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (1 Peter 1:24-25 ESV) He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Easter is not just a one-day event, but rather the one event that changes every day! During this Easter season here at International Lutheran Church we have begun a new sermon series entitled "Our Living Hope" as we read through the Epistle of 1 Peter. Today, Peter reminds us of what is truly permanent. While change and decay are a part of our everyday lives, Peter reminds us of the good news made sure in Jesus' Resurrection that the Word of the Lord endures forever!

While change can sometimes be welcome and refreshing, at other times it can be very stressful and disheartening especially when that change includes loss. The downcast-journey of Cleopas and his friend to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) reflect this as they meet a visitor to Jerusalem seemingly oblivious to the events of Jesus' crucifixion. "We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." While their hope had seemingly become overinflated and burst with disillusionment, the Risen Jesus walked with them and explained from the scriptures just how the Messiah must first suffer before entering His glory. This truth of the cross and the empty tomb is what sets faith in Jesus apart from all our attempts to find permanence in this world or in ourselves.

For Peter the suffering and Resurrection of Jesus is what redemption is all about. This pattern of the cross and empty tomb sets us apart and makes us exiles or strangers in the world in which we live. We don't belong here because we belong to Him who died and rose again. In the Small Catechism Luther uses Peter's words to explain what it means for Jesus to be my Lord. "He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM *Sunday Morning Bible Study and Sunday School*
10:00 AM *Divine Worship Service*
(in-person and live stream)

OTHER EVENTS

Go to ilcseoul.org > Upcoming for other events

kingdom..." (Luther's Small Catechism, the explanation of the second article of the Apostles' Creed)

Our redemption does not mean that we are here just waiting around to go to heaven. Rather we live here, even under the most difficult of situations, with the living hope that our permanence is in Him who made us and redeemed us. The cross declares that our lives as exiles and "withering grass" serve our neighbor. Like Peter, we are a living testimony to God's grace and love to all as we grow in our appreciation of His love for us and all people. We share His love with one another. We use the gifts and talents He has given us to bless our neighbor. While the flower fades and decays, and our lives grow dim, His Word - His spoken message of grace and forgiveness - only grows brighter and brighter. From falling flowers to His Eternal Word, this is our Living Hope! He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Carl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, you may direct inquiries for any announcement to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Links to online or live stream events will be included in either the electronic version of *The Messenger* or will be sent out on Sunday morning.

EASTER SEASON

Today we continue in the Time of Easter in the church year. White is the color for this season because "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18). Christ's triumph from the grave is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy.

GROWING IN YOUR FAITH LIFE

Apart from weekly Divine Service, multiple Bible studies take place throughout the week at ILC. Additionally, Pastor Carl is happy to work with you and your family for personal or group instruction and preparation for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation.

ILC CHURCH COUNCIL

The ILC Church Council meets today after church. This group meets regularly to discuss and manage matters related to all aspects of our community. We are grateful for this group of volunteers, and may the Lord bless them as they serve ILC.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE GIVING

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY MAKING USE OF ONLINE GIVING.

Your generosity helps makes the ministry of ILC possible, by God's grace!

KEB HANA 166-890039-91604

READINGS

April 19: Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading	Acts 2:14a, 36-41
NT	1 Peter 1:17-25
Gospel	Luke 24:13-35

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in serving as a Sunday Volunteer, or need to make a scheduling adjustment, please write to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Thank you!

APRIL 19	10:00 AM
ACOLYTE	Sun & Yul
GREETER	Dee Dee
USHERS	Olivia & Dee Dee
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Christian
LIVE STREAM	Matt
KITCHEN HELPERS	Rachel & Sung Eun
OFFERING COUNTERS	Yoonsil & Adam