

The Day of Resurrection (2021)

Mark 16:1–8 *And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”*

In the Name of Jesus.

The stone ‘HAD been rolled back.’

“Our Father knows our every need/
Before our needs to us are known.”

Isaiah sang of the day when the ‘reproach’ of God’s people would be taken away. That day has come! And that’s good! For there’s a lot of ‘reproaching’ going around!

What’s a reproach? Name calling. ‘Christian!’
‘Gospel-maniac!’ ‘Sin-doer!’ ‘Lutheran!’

‘Pastor! Watch your language! There are children here!’

The believers were first called ‘Christ-ians,’ Saint Luke tells us, at a city called Antioch. No doubt, because they kept ON and ON about ‘Christ, Christ, Christ!’ You could hear the old pagans and old Judeans and whatnot: ‘Oh, those CHRIST-ians; they ONLY talk about HIM!’

After Doctor Martin Luther was excommunicated from the one holy, Roman Catholic Church and branded

outlaw, Luther and his tiny band were labelled by their holy opponents as ‘Evangelicals.’ Latin. They all fussed back and forth in Latin in those days. The ‘Evangel’ is the ‘Gospel.’ Again, the reproach! ‘Oh, those GOSPEL-LERS! The Gospel, the Gospel, the Gospel! That’s ALL they talk about! WHEN are those pesky people going to realize that religion gets traction when the LAW smiles at good little boys and girls?!’

The Law never smiles at anyone. So says this Lutheran.

Isaiah wrapped up his song and boast with a happy synonym for ‘The Gospel.’ ‘This is the Lord; we have waited for Him!’

‘Wait.’ ‘Expect.’ ‘Do all you must get busy doing; but place NO weight on what you must do!’ Take YOUR religiosity and self-confidence; bury it with a shovel; then bury the shovel you buried it with; and that shovel; and that one; until Christ appears! Wait!

DESPITE the ladies’ chittering and chattering about the stone, the stone, the stone: the stone was gone before they even got there!

DESPITE Peter’s denials that he was a disciple of Jesus, the young man at the tomb made sure Peter heard too that He had risen from the dead!

DESPITE...ALL...OUR....BOASTS....

ALL...OUR...REHEARSING OF THE WRONGS
OF OTHERS....

Wait! Stop it!

The Law says: Do not repeat
ONE...BAD...THING...BAD...NEXT...WOMAN...HA
S...DONE! Bad man. Naughty boy!

But we cannot help ourselves, can we? We love to
FEAST on the wrongs of others. Why?

Because we've all got a date with a tomb and a
stone...and that ain't the end! There's
something...Someone...REALLY scary yet to face.

‘And if I'm the LEAST stinky corpse in the cemetery,
maybe.....’

The Gospel, Christ, your poor, silly, ignor-able
pastor—who has NO influence in this world and this
world's church—

The day of Resurrection cries out that ALL our fussin'
and feudin' has ALREADY been made pointless; and
harmless? Christ—Evangel—Luther—and I say: we are
going to get away with our lousy performance. Just you
wait and see.

We can still DO harm, my dear ones. And that's why
Doctor Luther called on the whole life of the Christ-ians,
the Gospel-lers, the SIN-ners, the Luther-ans, to be nothing
but joy in Baptism, hunger for the Body and Blood of
Christ: in a word, ‘repentance.’

For when the Son of God swallowed up the CAUSE of death and the REPROACH of death and the NIGHTMARE that comes AFTER you assume room temperature...

What uglier thing can we do, my lovelies, than super-glue what Christ bore on the cross for the NEXT MAN, back ON the next man, the next poor child of God? Thurz nothing worser. 'Christ has risen. Too bad that's not for you!'

'How can I refuse to shun ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son suffered without measure?'

So we sang during the 40 day fast of Lent. And yet, did we find a way to refuse the sinful pleasure of casting reproach? I know I did! 'Lord, have mercy on ME!'

It would REALLY make my Easter Day if there was at least one other poor soul in church today who must confess the saddest reproach of all with your poor, miserable, sinful pastor: 'Glad Jesus rose for ME! Now, let me keep that to MYSELF!'

But I will rise from death, from reproach, from what I deserve, from the shame of being saved as a gift, but making others pay. You too.

Because the stone
'HAD...BEEN...ROLLED...AWAY!'

And Christ HAS been raised from the dead. And if HE has been raised, there's no doubt about what WE are waiting for in the Name of Jesus.