

Year of the Lord 2019
Luke and Paul and Isaiah

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”
“Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!
Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
Thee!”**

Isaiah 65:17–25 “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.

1 Corinthians 15:19–26 If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Luke 24:1–12 On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were

perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” *And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.*

In the Name of Jesus:

Thank God for Peter! That man competes with our Lord Himself: which man’s record is MORE COMFORTING?! The Lord’s birth and life and suffering and rising unmask FEAR for what it is: the NOTHING that we make of ourselves: fearing critters! FEAR is NOT from our Maker!

Yet the Lord rose and appeared to Simon, our Peter! And then, the reason the Lord called and raised and pardon HIM, Peter now strengthens the family of Jesus, even you and me, by revealing to the whole Church that FEAR was still in charge of Peter That Day. And yet, in fact, Christ HAS been raised from the dead! So not even Peter’s FEAR bothers heaven now. As the women’s fear did not keep the two dazzling men from this: “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen! Remember what He told you....”

This is all ‘idle talk;’ so judged the fearful men to whom those beautiful ladies first told the Gospel! So, my dear ones: that’s what this day is FOR! Idle talk! And if yer pastor is good at ANYTHING....

Idle talking Isaiah: ‘The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox...’

I know why lions eat oxen. Because CATS CANNOT be domesticated! But a wolf is a dog! And they have HOPE! So, why do wolves eat lamb? Well, because lamb is very tasty! But what Isaiah is idling on about is a heaven and earth, creation so NEW, that those with the biggest, boasting, FEARFUL minds, hearts, hands, can ONLY roll their eyes and that such idle talk!

A wolf eats a lamb out of FEAR about where its next meal is coming from. Like my FISH! My silly CHICHLIDS will keep eating, as long as I keep putting food in their tank; they will eat until they burst and DIE, they are so full of fear! Come by my house and see them! You can walk up to the tank; they'll all swish their tails and swim right up to the glass to you, fooling you into thinking they have some sort of devotion to you. Then you can put your hand in the tank with me, and move their things around, and find out, as they nip and bite, that YOU and I are just more food to them.

This is the DAY, my dear ones! The Day of the NEW! Fear not, when I tell you that the story of Jesus rising from the dead is NOT the only story told by men in history about dying and rising gods. So, that someone pops out of the ground and gets rolling again in the same old, same old—nothing Christian about that!

WHO has risen, just as He said? Saint Luke recorded:

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.¹

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God. And when the Living God burst through the protective screen of the temple and was on the LOOSE, THIS MAN, the One Who told them in Galilee that He would rise from it all—whether or not anyone was paying any attention!—This Man prayed for the hand of That God to wrap around: Just Him!

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 23:44–46). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Making the Hand of God, for you, dear children, the Hand of your Father Who CANNOT remember anything Old about you, me, Adam; any of us!

And making the grave now a bed for the weary, from which we will, in fact, rise also, like Him.

And making our fear—which we are going to go on fearing until the End—just THAT! The NOTHING men make of themselves and each other, and GOD!—the whole reason He came and died and rose. The reason His Spirit tells us about Peter going—No! RUNNING!—to the
LAST...PLACE...HE...COULD...EVER...FIND...JESUS!

I am listening to my ‘feelings doctor.’ So I say the next thing.

It really bothers me, my dear Christians, ESPECIALLY after we receive Christ’s Body and Blood for the forgiveness of our sins; after we make bold to school God on the best way to forgive US—AS...WE...HAVE...ALREADY...PARDONED those who have sinned against us...

It makes your poor pastor angry to leave our fellowship and then hear one or two steps out the door—sometimes even still in this holy place!—a rehearsal, from Y’ALL, of the great crimes others have done to harm you and me; or the molehills we turn into mountains; because if we have to rehearse something to vent our fears and get ahead of them, we can make do with the petty.

I cannot begin to tell you how hard it is for me to write down this about my anger and then to speak it out to you, God’s holy people. But I’m listening to those who know better; and getting it out of my system.

AND...I pray, I am listening to the Lord! For y’all are the baptized! Meaning: in the eyes of heaven, you are, now, children of your Heavenly Father! And you can take a bit of reproof; and

learn to reprove YOURSELVES now and then! For we are NOT just like Grampa Adam, fearful of God, hiding, even in the garden, covering ourselves, blaming others. Yes, we have that in us!

But, it seems, the Creator never meant for wolves and lions to be so scary, so carnivorous. Any more than He intended US to devour one another!

And even now, before He comes for our ETERNAL forgiving, lambs are—now and then—safe, even with us. And the poor oxen can sometimes graze in peace, as we find something else to chew on, other than THEM!

You see my problem here, my dear ones! I'm sure you're way ahead of me. FEAR! Fear that I am somehow preaching the Gospel wrong, or the Law, or doing SOMETHING wrong, if you, OR I, leave this place still OBVIOUSLY in need of a Friend: the Friend of sinners!

Along with praying for your pastor, I beg you to keep reminding me that we are Lutherans! Meaning, the whole BOAST of OUR religion is to make the world say, in wonder: 'Well, if heaven finds THESE people acceptable, then who is left OUT?!!!'

Certainly not the women—whose NAMES we already KNOW! So it won't be all awkward when we see them, soon: *Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them...*

THEY get their fears breathed away—even when they go, EARLY!, to EMBALM a Man Who cannot be dead on Easter Day!

The apostles, who considered the Apostles' Creed stuff nothing but 'idle talk.' Oh, they would learn, after Pentecost, how they are just like everyone else in the world. How FRUITLESS teaching the Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther seems to be!

And Peter—after being told that His Body isn't THERE, goes THERE...

And what have you and I left to fear?

Not turning ourselves into God, because we're so scared that God is on the scene for us. 'How do I protect and preserve great ME now?!'

Nor need we fear the fear in us that makes us wrap our mouths around the next OBVIOUS, sinful, frightened, creature. 'Watch THIS lamb turn WOLF! Hear THIS LION roar!'

We all do all that. But, in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead! And HE is just the first! We're do for rising too!

So, my dear ones: OK, there is a place to hear the rebuke of what's OLD in us, and to take it to heart and then, even on Easter, practice some repentance and changing of our ways. Can we maybe make it into the soundproof booth of our cars before we sink our teeth into any of God's lambs?

But the last thing I want you to do is to jettison your Lutheran-icity! When the wolf lies down with the lamb; when the lion eats straw; this means that FEAR has no place! There is no pretense THERE. Not in the heavens and earth the Holy Spirit makes NEW!

So just keep on being the good old hardboiled sinner you already know how to be! Repent some; even fear a bit; this world ain't over YET!

But thank God that your Baptism into Christ says things about us that WE dare not invent about ourselves.

Thank God for Christ's Body and Blood, shed not just for a few, but for many; even us!

Thank God for the Spirit of Jesus Who dwells in us! Who can, so gently, unmask the fear in us; and take all our fears away in the Name of Jesus! Amen!