

The Season of Easter: Jesus Christ – *Resurrection and Life*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The great season of Easter is upon us, a banquet of resurrection. The 50 days following Easter gives us time to rejoice and experience what we mean when we say Christ is risen, and that we, as the church, are the body of the Risen Lord.

Let us celebrate the season with new hope, new life, and the recognition that we ourselves, belonging to Christ, in Christ, are raised with him in glory.

Believing means living out baptism, living out new creation. It is the impulse of the soul to follow the voice we recognize. The voice of the Good Shepherd. We know his voice as he calls to us to “come,” “join,” “eat,” and “tend.” He is our leader, beginning and end, perfecter of our faith. As Jesus assured the Apostles at first Pentecost, he assures us now. He will not leave us as orphans, he will be with us always. The Father and the Son pour into us the Holy Spirit. The Power of God, The Spirit of God, the eternal love of God the Father and God the Son.



Raising of Lazarus

Where is the Good Shepherd leading us? Into the presence of God, a royal court — a fresh, pleasing scene – with flowery meadows ascending on a coastline breeze. While smells of sweet incense permeate our senses, we are at once, in the breakout of the new breath, the new life, all our love and memory softly sing to perfect tune. The sting of death fades, a new wave, transforming with all the colors of eternity’s renewed horizon. It is here we encounter the

Shepherd for total embrace. He starts with this rapture but asks us to go one step further with him in faith. He calls us to share with everyone and anyone the good news,

“Behold, I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

Make this Easter season a memorable one by being truly present, especially to those in need. Look upon them with the eyes of Christ, speak to them the comforting words of love. Speak truth, and be wise. Put down the distractions so you can smell the blossoming flowers all around, and see the beauty in the faces of others. Pray with joy from the heart. Watch the light clear the path before you. Praise God, love your neighbor. Do these things, and all will be well with you. The Lord your God will call out to you and you will step out in faith, alive as the sky opens up.

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Patrick Stearman

Youth Minister (St. Bridget's)