

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father, and our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation this morning is the Epistle lesson of the Revelation to Saint John the seventh chapter, verses nine through eighteen.

Boys and Girls, I pray that you are doing well today. How much does your mom love you? I am sure that they love you a lot! They show it every single day. They make sure that you have food and drink. They make sure that you eat your breakfast and brush your teeth. They show their love by comforting you when you are hurt. When you skin your knee or stub your toe, they kiss your owies and make them better. When you cry, they wipe away the tears. In our text for today, we see a love greater than that of our mothers and fathers. We see the love God has for us. Our text says that God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. How does God love us and comfort us when we are hurt? Ponder that question as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

### **We hurt now (SN, World, Assaults of devil)**

We have hurts greater than skinned knees or stubbed toes. Here and now, we have pain every single day. Pains that come from ourselves, the world, and our old evil foe, the Devil. We hurt ourselves and those around us constantly. We do so

whenever we break the law of God. Whenever we lie, we cheat. When we put other things in the place of God, trusting them more than our Creator. When we sin, we hurt ourselves and those around us. When are prideful, arrogant, desiring our own ways. When we are greedy and covetous. We are not perfect and even our own bodies prove it. My body hurts today. I do not have as much energy today as yesterday. I did not even know that muscle could be hurt. My eyesight or hearing is worse then last year. Our bodies hurt and decay as a sign of our sins and the fact that we still live in a sinful and fallen world.

We are in pain because we still live in a sinful and fallen world. Just look at all of the wars, all of the earthquakes and fires, and the untold amount of damages to property and life. The burning heat of droughts and lack of water or at times the opposite, too much water and not enough heat. The pain and hunger that affects us because of the sins of those around us. Everywhere we look nothing but worms, rottenness, constant death and decay that surrounds us and affects every living thing.

We are in pain because of the assaults of the devil. Satan constantly attacks us in order to lead us away from the faith that we have been given. He causes us to doubt the blessed words of Holy Scripture with the simple little question, “Did God really say?” He leads us into sin time and time again, thinking that we know better than God. That we can be the ones to make the rules. How much pain does our sin cause us,

even as we grieve over them in repentance. Our sins cause us pain, they cause others pain, they damage the relationships that we have been given.

Truly, we have immense pain and immense hurt and tears because of our sinful nature, the assaults of the devil and our fallen world.

### **JC Saves us, unites us together**

Our Lord knows our pain. He experiences immense pain even before His crucifixion. In Gethsemane, He sweat blood. A condition known as *hematidrosis*. Dr. Alexander Metherell is a doctor who has examined the crucifixion. He says that “What this did was set up the skin to be extremely fragile so that when Jesus was flogged by the Roman soldier the next day, His skin would have been very, very sensitive.” In that condition, Jesus is flogged, beaten, and hung upon a cross. There He dies, taking upon Himself our sins, our pain. Why? So that He may wipe every single one of our tears away by taking our pain and suffering upon Himself. Rising again from the dead, Jesus gives to us newness of life with Him forever.

By Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection, we have all of our pain and hurt done away with. This does not mean that we do not have pain and hurt now. Rather, our faith clings to the day when all pain will be put away forever. When God will restore the dead to life, we will live with Him forever and ever. As Luther writes:

“While worms and rottenness are before our eyes, we cannot be unmindful of them, nevertheless there will be a time when God will wipe away every tear, as is stated in Rev. 7:17. Therefore faith should begin to forget tears and dishonor which it does not see. Although the eyes see the rottenness, the ears hear the complaints and sobs, and the noses smell the stench of the corpses, nevertheless it is the part of faith to say: ‘I do not know this. I see nothing. Indeed, I see a multiplication and a brightness surpassing the sun itself and the stars.’ Therefore, such examples are set before us in order that we may learn that God is the Creator of all things, restores the dead to life and glorifies worms and the foulest rottenness. And He wants this to be acknowledged and celebrated by us in this life in faith. Later, however, in the future life, we shall experience it in actual fact”<sup>1</sup>

Until that day, when God will wipe away all tears from our eyes, let us encourage one another and support each other, showing each other a greater love than that of a mother for her child. The love of a Savior, for His creation, as we wipe away each other’s earthly tears, as we mourn and console, reminding each other to hold fast to the promises found in Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection of that blessed day to come.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Engelbrecht, E. A. (2009). *The Lutheran Study Bible* (p. 2211). Concordia Publishing House.