Life Has Changed

by Rev. Jeff Duncan, Mission & Ministry Director

Life as we know it has changed! The novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), the cause of the disease COVID-19, has our lives in confusion, hysteria, and despair. Or does it?

The devil rejoices when Christians are separated from the gifts of God in Word and Sacrament. Governing authorities take precautions. The public welfare is considered, and policies are dictated. In Nebraska, the directive limits gathering in public events to 10 or fewer souls. How is the Church—your local church—going to continue? The norm of our weekly worship life is disrupted. Fear and uncertainty abound. Clergy, boards of elders, and church councils are sent scrambling for quick decisions. Strategies are discussed, alternatives are weighed, and announcements are published. The Word of the Lord shall endure!

In reality, life as we know it has not changed at all! From the sin of Adam and Eve came the entrance of death into the Garden. For a time, it appeared the Serpent had won. Out of the despair of falling into sin and judgment came a promise.

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15).

God Himself has delivered on this promise. Salvation has come in a Son, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).

Now we have received the gift of adoption into His Life at the cross of our redemption. Sins are forgiven as the Lord suffered the full wrath of the Father’s judgment, drinking it down to the dregs. Dying, He lives! Resurrected to new life, He redeems us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Raised in glory to the right hand of God, He bestows the power to become sons of the Father in our Baptisms.

“We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not over-pow’r us. Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us, We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not over-pow’r us. This world’s prince may still Scowl fierce as he will, He can harm us none. He’s judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him. (LSB 656, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” vs. 3)

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