



“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God’s elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by His blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” (I Peter 1:1-9)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, keep our thoughts focused on Your Holy Word and our minds on Your spectacular victory over death and the devil, so that we may live in the continued joy of Your resurrection and join the delights of the Holy ones at Your right Hand, where you live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.



Order of Worship – The Common Service Without L.S. – pg. 15

Opening Hymn C.W. 153 / TLH 188

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Acts 2:14; 22-32

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 16 (Liturgy pg. 68; Read or Sing as desired)

Keep me safe O God for in You I take refuge.

I said to the Lord, You are my Lord; apart from You I have no good thing.

I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand I will not be shaken.

My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

Because You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will You let Your Holy One see decay.

You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence.

Second Lesson – I Peter 1:1-9

Gospel Lesson – John 20:19-31

Apostle's Creed – (pg. 19)

Sermon Hymn: C.W. 158 / TLH 196

Sermon Text: I Peter 1:1-9

Sermon Theme: Soul Salvation

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering

Offering Prayer

Prayer Of The Church (Responsive Prayer – C.W. pg. 126)

Lord's Prayer (Traditional Version)

Hymn C.W. 449 / TLH 648

Collect / Prayer (pg. 25)

Benediction

Hymn C.W. 162 / TLH 189

Our Heavenly Father's Business at St. John's

Sunday, April 19 – Joint Public Worship Service, Young People's Society, Sunday School & Family Bible Study - Canceled due to COVID-19

Wednesday, April 29 – 12:30 p.m. Ladies Aid - Canceled due to COVID-19

Sunday, April 26 – Joint Public Worship Service, Sunday School & Family Bible Study - Canceled due to COVID-19

Sunday, May 3 – 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 9:30 a.m. Family Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Joint Public Worship Service; All God Willing of course, and use precautions, that is Social Distancing / Masks / gloves etc., or feel free to remain at home until??? Those who wish to attend the worship service are asked to please register by calling or e-mailing.

Monday, May 11 – 6:45 p.m. Deacon Meeting; 7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting. With precautions. Practicing Social Distancing.

Tuesday, May 12 – 9:30 a.m. Circuit Meeting at Salem – Scio Church Rd.

Tuesday, May 12 – Men's Club on Recess until September.

Meditation Booklets – have arrived which are for the quarter of May 31, 2020 through August 29, 2020. We thank the Ladies Aid Society and the Men's Club for covering the cost for these daily devotional booklets. Anyone who would like to help cover the cost may do so by making a Free Will offering to either the Ladies Aid or the Men's Club.

Dear Guests! – We pray that you will be able to join us again after the COVID-19 issue is past. If you would like to learn more about the Holy Bible or would like to become a member, please contact the Pastor either via phone or e-mail:

Phone: 734-761-1740

E-mail: stjohsnorthfield2015@gmail.com

Coffee Hour After Service – Canceled Due to COVID-19. Enjoy a Coffee at home.

SERMON TEXT: I Peter 1:1-9

Vs. 1 - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered (diasporas) throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,

Vs. 2 - who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Vs. 3 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Vs. 4 - and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you,

Vs. 5 - who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Vs. 6 - In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

Vs. 7 - These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Vs. 8 - Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

Vs. 9 - for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

GREETING: GREETING: Jesus says: heaven & Earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. . (Matt. 24:35)

He was born Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus.

His name was changed to Nero Claudius Drusus Germanicus by the persuasion of his mother Agrippina.

Agrippina wanted to see her son become Emperor of Rome and according to some historians she poisoned her husband Claudius and manipulated the crowning of her son who we now know as NERO.

Nero however during the time that he ruled Rome (54 A.D – 68 A.D.) became filled with paranoia that there were plots to take his crown, this paranoia caused him to have his mother (Agrippina) his wife (Octavia) and his foster brother (Britannicus) put to death.

According to historians, this is the same NERO who blamed the Christians for the burning of Rome in 64 A.D., which led to the persecution of the Christians by having them killed in the Arena by lions and other means.

This persecution of the believers began even before Nero, by Claudius as we have recorded in Acts 18:1, "There (in Corinth) Paul, (The Apostle) met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome."

It was this persecution of the Christians that led many to scatter, therefore the Apostle Peter address the Christians as:

Vs. 1 - God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,

One could argue the question: "If the Christians were truly confident that on the day they died they would be in heaven anyway, why would they flee? Why would they scatter?"

God however used this persecution to get the Christians to scatter to other parts of the world and tell others about Jesus Christ, the risen and victorious Savior over death and the devil.

God's wish and desire is that: "All men (Mankind) be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

As we continue through with the COVID-19 crisis we may be scratching our heads and wondering what God is doing by allowing this to happen and cause so much suffering and pain.

We can only turn to the Word of our Lord where He tells us: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways declares the Lord." (Isa. 55:8)

The Christians at the time of NERO were scattered, but they took the Word of the Lord with them, even when they had to leave their stuff behind.

What does God want the believers to do during this time of stay at home orders and emergency rooms filled with patients and news reports that makes ones stomach churn?

The Apostle Peter gives the believers in his day and during our time many Words of Comfort and Encouragement in these verses:

Vs. 2 – "who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,"

God knew and chose His people before the creation of the world as we learn in Colossians 1:4 – "For He chose us in Christ before the creation of the world"

Because God knew the believers before time began, will He abandon us now during COVID-19?

How is it, that God has made us His own? God made us His own by the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. In the Waters of baptism we became connected to Christ Jesus and the forgiveness of sins and salvation that Christ won for us by His Holy Precious Blood.

Vs. 2 b – "through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance."

Therefore even in midst of stress and anxiety we have HOPE.

The Hope that we have is LIVING, because Jesus Christ has Risen from the dead.

Vs. 3 – “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

And this Living Hope is a hope that even in dark moments of death, even if it is caused by COVID-19, The Living Hope is a hope that is yours in heaven which CAN NEVER perish.

Vs. 4 – “and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you,”

We can take all the human precautions possible, but in the end, it is God’s Power that protects us.

Vs. 5 – “who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

The believers at the time of the Apostle Peter were undergoing persecution to such an extent that it caused them to “Scatter”. They may have thought that it would Never End!

Sometimes when we go through hardships in life it seems as though it will NEVER end.

The Stay at home policy and the ongoing devastation to lives and the nation’s economy caused by COVID-19 may seem as though it will never end.

What does God through the Apostle Peter tell the believers then and us?

It will only be for a “little while” .

Vs. 6 – “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.”

And so where does God through the Apostle Peter tell the Christians then and now to place their confidence, that is their trust and faith? Not in bank accounts! Not in earthly wealth! Gold Perishes!

Vs. 7 – “These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Where do we place our faith?

We place our faith on that which our eyes of flesh cannot see, but our eyes of faith do see.

We place our faith in Christ Jesus our Risen Savior.

Vs. 8 – “Though you have not seen HIM, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,”

Human lives of all ages, of both genders, of every race, are valuable.

But our soul is even more valuable.

There is a goal of many right now, and this is to survive the onslaught caused by COVID-19.

The goal of many is to find accurate and fast testing methods and a cure for COVID-19.

But notice how God, through the Apostle Peter tells us that we are, yes right now, we are receiving the goal of our faith in Christ Jesus, and that goal is the Salvation of our Souls.

Vs. 9 – “for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

Let us rejoice that we have heaven where there is no more sin, or pain or sorrow or death, (Rev. 21:1-7) and we can look forward to heaven where God will graciously give us those new and glorified bodies (Philip. 3:20-21), because of Christ Jesus our Risen Savior.

Sin is paid for by Christ’s Holy precious blood. Death and Satan are defeated!

May the Lord give you and everyone continued strength.

Jesus Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! _____! AMEN

THEME: Soul Salvation