

The Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 17, 2020

“Because I live you will live” (John 14:19)  
By Rev. Ed Weber

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior the risen Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
Our text for this Sixth Sunday in Easter is from our Gospel reading, John 14:19.

**“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.”**

Here ends our text.

**I. The unbelieving world does not see Jesus and its living has again failed during this pandemic**

Our text gets to the very heart of what the Christian faith is all about, doesn't it? True and real living. We live only because Jesus lives. All living outside of Jesus is not living at all, only a march of death. There is a huge difference in how the world, the unbelieving world, that is, is dealing with and living with this pandemic right now, in contrast to the believer. There is a huge difference in what the unbelieving world's expectations are for living post Covid-19, in contrast to that of the believer.

Because the unbelieving world does not see or know the Holy Spirit or Jesus, as our Gospel says, this pandemic has been an all-out assault and devastation of everything that the unbeliever holds dear and lives for...riches, the pursuit and enjoyment of worldly pleasure and the reliance on human effort to solve any and all problems.

It's been a major failure on all of these fronts. Wealth has declined, life's enjoyments have been restricted, and human solutions have been slow and ineffective. The unbeliever's house that has been built on the sand has been flooded by wave after wave of Covid-19 and it's collapsing. And there is much angst and desperation. The unbeliever's one main goal is to get back as quickly and as close as possible to the

life that was pre-Covid-19. How short-sighted! Even if that can be achieved, is that living really a fulfilling life?

The believer answers, “no”! It is not fulfilling. It is the same old tired pursuit of the vanity of vanities. This pandemic should be a wakeup call to all people that there is more to life than working and building bigger barns. This kind of life can be taken away so quickly and what’s left is the dreadful judgment of a sinful soul left to fall into the hands of the living God!

In our reading from Psalm 119:92-93, the believer sees what would have been the terrible outcome of his life had it not been for the “Your law”, that is Your word.

**Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life.**

The believer sees that God’s word, that is the law, has convicted him or her of sin, and then by the power of the Gospel, healed his or her soul. The change is so dramatic and so visible that it is the greatest delight of the Christian to know the Triune God, never forget God’s precepts for they have given life, true life through the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

“Perished in my affliction”, is the outcome of a life that does not know or see Jesus.

In Athens, Paul saw statues of false gods, dead gods and it broke his heart. The people saw them as real. Paul said to the people.

**Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”**

These words of Paul hold true to all people of our time as well. Jesus lives and will judge the world and those who have Christ’s righteousness through faith will live eternally.

The believer realizes that he cannot by his or her own power or strength live forever. No amount of hand sanitizing or social distancing or mask wearing can give

eternal life to this mortal body. It is destined to perish, if it were not for one amazing truth of Scripture...

## II. **Christians see Jesus by faith and live because He lives!**

“Because I live, you will live also”. That short and simple sentence, changes everything! Because Jesus lives, the Christian lives! The Christian is given the righteousness of Jesus through faith. His victory over sin is the believer’s victory! Peter tells us the good news in his epistle in chapter three that we read earlier.

**18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,**

That Christ would bring us to God! We could never do this, for we are unjust. But Jesus suffered once for all our sins. And He washes our sins in our baptisms that Peter declares saves us!

**“There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”**

Jesus gives us a good conscience, a peaceful conscience for there is no more sin to condemn us! What a delight for our soul! It is all possible and only possible because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **“Because I live, you will live also”.**

And, today especially, Jesus gives us His very body and blood that He sacrificed to gain our eternal life. Eat and drink for your forgiveness.

Yes, Jesus assures us that though we are unjust, He is merciful and compassionate to us.

He gives us the Comforter, the Holy Spirit who lives in us and consoles our weary and sinful souls with the Good News of the Gospel.

**III. As a believer in Jesus, you willingly live according to the Triune God's word**

**15 "If you love me, keep My commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth.**

Alone we falter in trying to keep God's commands, but the Holy Spirit helps us. He leads us. He reminds us of how great God's love for us is. We love because He has first loved us.

We love God and are moved to keep His commands because Jesus lives and has changed the believer's life forever. A Christian no longer lives for self-gratification or self-preservation but for the good of others.

The Good News of the Gospel of salvation is what makes our living, even during this pandemic, a joyful living. Especially if we are ridiculed for our faith in Jesus, we know that it is but a temporal suffering compared with the eternity of heavenly bliss to come. So Peter reminds us.

**And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed.**

So stanza 4 of our opening hymn, "Jesus lives! The Vict'ry's Won" so beautifully says:

*"Jesus lives! I know full well Nothing me from Him shall sever. Neither death nor pow'rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever. God will be my sure defense; This shall be my confidence."*

And because Jesus lives, He promises us that He will not leave us as orphans, but He will come again for us. We heard Jesus tell us last week in the opening verses of chapter 14.

**3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.**

So verse 2 of the same hymn describes this confidence!

*“Jesus lives! To Him the throne High above all things is given. I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven. God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.”*

*Jesus lives!* That changes everything! We can now live without fear or doubt, but with confidence. We have confidence in this.

**“The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”**

The list of what that short sentence means to me and you could go on and on. The hymn “I Know that My Redeemer Lives” captures many of the blessings which the Christian knows in this life.

*“He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye; He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul’s complaint.*

*He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears; He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.*

*He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above; He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.”*

The Christian lives because he or she has seen Jesus with eyes of faith. God is no longer an unknown God but a known God...the Known God! He is the Way, the Truth and the Life! He is the God who graciously gave His life on the cross so that I would have life now and eternally.

*Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives! Amen.*

**“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Galatians 4:7)**