



PASTOR'S PERCOLATIONS

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8:31-39*

Dear Brothers and Sisters and Christ,

It is in a very different place that we look to celebrate Easter. We are in a time of quarantine and for many that brings sorrow when thinking about celebrating Easter with church, family, and friends. It usually is a time for the body of Christ to be unified around the celebration of the resurrection. If we are honest, it seems difficult to unite and celebrate with how things are at the moment. It is in these moments I think it is important to look to the heart of our Easter celebration. At its heart it is not about lilies, or bunnies, or eggs, or dinners. It is what God does for us in Christ Jesus. A few thousand years ago, Christ lived, died, and rose again on our behalf. This was done out of infinite love and compassion. That is what we celebrate on Easter God loving us and giving us life. Now, this Easter it may seem far off. This Good news may seem like it is not easily found. The lesson from Romans reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Our isolation and quarantine do not separate us from the love of Christ Jesus. In this season of our lives, we need to look for the resurrection moments that celebrate the new life in Christ Jesus we receive. We need to see new life breaking into our isolation. Just as Jesus came to us to save us, he comes to us wherever we are bringing life and salvation. Amen.

In Christ,

Pr. Michael Neel