



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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a Minnesota Corporation

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Dear Friends,

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.” Colossians 3:1-4

It was around twenty years ago that I attended our church’s convention when it was hosted here in the Copper Country. I was so moved by one of the messages at that convention that I requested a copy of that sermon, which I still have to this day. The text was the aforementioned passage from the third chapter of the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Colossians. The preacher thundered on with such passion that I was not sure whether his voice would hold out. His voice did last, and he continued his enthusiastic preaching, until God called our Brother Ansten Tretten home just a few days ago. We pray that the Lord will bless his wife and family as they grieve, and also as they celebrate Ansten’s victory in Christ.

Ansten was a great encouragement to me personally, as well as other young pastors just starting out in ministry. Ansten preached of Jesus Christ and Him crucified passionately, not only because the message was so important to him, but also because he wanted the hearers of that message to hear it and believe it as well. Over and over again, I would hear him use the phrase “*by faith*” in his preaching. We are justified by faith. We walk by faith. We live by faith. Our works are not sufficient. Only faith in the work of Christ makes us acceptable in the sight of God.

Ansten, along with Brother Orval Wirkkala was instrumental in starting a lectionary study, whereby several pastors join by a teleconference call to discuss the appointed readings for the coming Sunday. I have been greatly blessed by these meetings, not only for the discussion of God’s Word, but also for the fellowship that we have with one another. We serve side by side in God’s Kingdom, sharing the greatest news of all. We ***“are dead, and our life is hid with Christ in God.”***

During Holy Week, we remember the great price that was paid for the salvation of mankind. The death of Jesus Christ, means that our sins are forgiven and washed away by His precious blood. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ reminds us that death cannot hold Him, and it will not hold us as well. We are delivered from the deadness of our sin and are given new life in Christ. We are risen with Christ indeed! God be praised!

Thanks be to God for the victory we have in His Son, Jesus Christ. And thanks be to God for giving us stewards of His Word, like Brother Ansten, who faithfully proclaim that message to a world that needs to hear it. I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul:

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” II Timothy 4:7-8

As always, we thank you for your continuing support of the seminary through your prayers, gifts and words of encouragement. God grant you a blessed Holy Week and Easter celebration.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you...” I Peter 1:3-4

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



Easter Bible verses to reflect on...

John 11:25

²⁵ "Jesus said until her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:"

Luke 24:6

⁶ "He is not here, but is risen:"

1 Corinthians 6:14

¹⁴ "And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power."

Romans 6:9

⁹ "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him."

John 3:16

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Hebrews 12:2

² "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Psalms 23:6

⁶ "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

Matthew 20:28

²⁸ "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."



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