



FROM: THE DESK OF PASTOR CARUANA
TO: The People of Zion Lutheran Church
DATE: March 17, 2020

When the Future is Uncertain

One of the things we often fear is the future. We worry about what might happen, what could happen, and what we'll do if any of the things we worry about do happen. And then, maybe we even try to anticipate our every move and plan for every possibility.

Right now, many of us are worrying about the coronavirus. That certainly makes sense, but maybe we're worrying so much that our fear of the future is overwhelming us. In truth, there *is* much to fear in our lives and in our world. The unknown future can seem dark and filled with danger. We wonder if we can handle it. We wonder how we can endure it. We pray but may we feel as though our prayers are going unanswered and our relationship with God is strained.

Keeping that in mind, let me provide you with some good news based on Psalm 27. This Psalm, written by David, is a song and a prayer of trusting God in the face of fears and trials. We learn from this Psalm that our confidence is based on God's unending protection. David says (slightly modified): "The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom (or what) shall we we fear? The Lord is the stronghold of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?" You see, true safety is found in God's presence – a presence God shares with each of us in good times and bad times.

The ultimate fulfillment of this Psalm is found in Christ, the one who conquered our worst fears at the cross. He is our light and salvation. Because of Jesus, we can come into God's presence with confidence and hope. As Paul wrote in Romans (slightly modified again), "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who didn't spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all -- how will he not also graciously give us all the things we need ... all the protection we need ... and all the freedom from our worries?" If God sacrificed his own Son to save us from our sins, our fears, and our worries, certainly he will also be with us in the face of our world's current crisis.

Dear friends,

Whatever you fear today, go before the throne of grace in confidence because Christ has made the way for you. Cry out to God, give him your fears, worries, and cares. Ask for salvation, rescue, and deliverance. Instead of despairing over what could or might happen, run to the one who holds the world in the palm of his hand. Rest in the one who doesn't let a sparrow fall from the sky unless he so wills it. Find your peace in the knowledge that he is the Alpha and the Omega, the one who knows the beginning and the end. Nothing in your future will surprise your God because it's all under his care. And because you are his, all things will work toward your ultimate good.

Let us give thanks to the one who will bring us through this current crisis. Amen.



Happy St. Patrick's Day ...

May the luck of the Irish be with you!!

