


LOOKING UP

March-April 2023



"...look up, and lift
up your heads."
Lk. 21:24

A Reflection on Lent

BY PASTOR JASON SALMI

The Christian life is lived under the banner of "Already...but not yet." We know the end of the story. It's been written in the indelible certainty of the blood of Christ. Our eternal salvation is secure in the sacrifice that He made for us; our ransom payment has been made by the Son and accepted by the Father. And, while in one sense we can say that it's there in the future waiting for us since for now it is ours by faith and not by sight,

in another very real sense it is ours already right now. The Scriptures attest to that. The Resurrection of our Lord on Easter attests to that.

Yet we live in this time in between. Our salvation has already been secured. But we do not yet fully grasp it since we still find ourselves in this time that requires faith. So, appropriately, as we look forward with anticipation to our glorious Easter celebrations when our Lord rose victorious from the grave, the Christian Church has long observed the season of Lent.

Before we get to the celebration of our Lord's victorious Resurrection

cont. on pg 2

Regular Schedule

Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship service

Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Meal

2nd Sunday of the month

Board Meeting

7:00 PM 1st Tuesday
of the month

Ladies Bible Study

10:00 AM Wednesdays

Youth Group

TBA

Friday Night Bible Study

7:00 PM Location TBA

from the dead, we must first consider why He had to die. During the Lenten season which is the forty days which lead up to Easter, Christians do something that goes entirely against our (fallen) human nature. We acknowledge our sin. We look unflinchingly into the face of our own depravity and consider the fact that, were we judged based on what we deserve, nothing short of God's full wrath would suffice. And everything in our (fallen) flesh resists that. We would prefer to minimize or excuse or ignore our sin rather than accept it as our own. This impulse is the result of our first parents' original sin. In rejecting the command of God, they instead listened to the voice of the Tempter, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen. 3:4b-5) In that moment, humanity fell, taking the prerogative to be our own "god" and to judge for ourselves what is good and what is evil.

During Lent, we turn to God in repentance. We confess that we are truly sinners who deserve nothing but the just recompense for our sin. But we do so joyfully. We do so with the confidence that God has already forgiven us in Christ. We are free to confess our sins to God and to one another because we know the end of the story. All glory, honor and praise to our God who has redeemed us with His own precious blood!

Looking Ahead

March 25th

Spring Cleaning

March 28th

Red Cross Blood Drive

April 6th

Maundy Thursday Service

April 7th

Good Friday Service

April 9th

Easter Service w/ Brunch

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20

Vancouver Apostolic Lutheran Church

2103 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665

Church (360) 693-2620
Pastor Jason Salmi (360) 342-7317