



## Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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May 13, 2007  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
John 14:27  
Pastor Randy Ott

First Lesson: Acts 14:8-18  
Psalm of the Day: Psalm 65  
Second Lesson: Revelation 21:10-14, 22, 23  
Gospel: John 14:23-29

### Peace I Leave With You

While we are in this world, our Lord gives us all kinds of blessings. He showers blessings on us day after day. Blessings, at times we don't notice, maybe until they are gone. But one great truth is that he doesn't give all of us the same exact physical blessings, right? He blesses each of us in different ways at different times with different blessings. One of the blessings he gives to many people is mothers. Today we celebrate Mother's Day. Think of all the blessings he gave to us through our mothers. If you were blessed with a mother that was concerned about geography; maybe she taught you all about Africa before you had any inclination about it—you know, clean up your plate because there are kids starving in Africa, and some of us seem to learn that lesson a little better than others.

Other blessings that come through mothers—you are outside riding your bike and you hit a rock or your sister or whatever it might be, and you fall off your bike and skin your knee. Did you ever once in your life run in to Dad if Mom was available? Dad would have told you to suck it up and get back on your bike. Mom made the hurt go away.

When you came home from school troubled because someone was picking on you—I didn't go to Dad. I went to Mom. Of course, I didn't usually go to Mom. Mom would notice something was wrong. She would ask what was wrong or what was bothering you. She would eventually drag it out of you and then she would assure you that she loved you and others loved you and everything would be alright.

Now, if the Lord has given you that blessing of a mother that does that, that is a wonderful thing, right? Unfortunately not everyone has that blessing of a wonderful mother that does all that, so if you do, be thankful for it and thank the Lord for it. But this morning, as we gather together, we see a blessing that God has given to everyone of us equally the same. The blessing that he spoke on Maundy Thursday to the disciples is a blessing he also speaks to us. "*Peace I leave with you*" (John 14:27). "I don't leave you peace like the world leaves you peace, so don't let your hearts be troubled." Quite often with troubled hearts, we would run to our Mom. Now the Lord reminds us, "not only can you run to your Mom, you can always run to me and I will take away the trouble and I will give you a peace that is unlike anything the world gives."

Think about this when Jesus says these words. It is Maundy Thursday. Soon he is going to die. Soon he is going to be buried. Soon he is going to be gone. Then they are going to see him again. Then 40 days later he is going to be gone again. Then they are going to be all alone and they are going to be scared. Then they are going to

be uncertain. So in our reading that we had from John today, he talks about sending them the Holy Spirit and how the Holy Spirit would work in them and how the Holy Spirit would help them—how Jesus himself would give them a peace that is unlike anything the world would give them. This prepares them to go forward and to serve. *“Peace I leave with you...I do not give to you as the world gives”* (John 14:27).

Now, the concept of peace in the world we can understand, right? There is peace and there is war. When war comes to an end, peace starts—that is usually how we talk about it, right? But when two nations are warring and the peace starts out, do they immediately love each other and want to hug each other? Or is there some nice hatred that still remains? Is there some nice bitterness because of the fallen comrades they might have seen die at the hands of their enemy and that enemy still stays the enemy in the mind for quite awhile.

You and I are not at peace with God when we are born. We are sinful. There is just no doubt about it. God tells us he not only hates sin, in the Book of Psalms he says he hates the sinner. If we stumble across that passage before we understand what Jesus has done to take away our sins, I think we would be scared to death because we know what sinners we are. But when God brings about a peace, it is different. God brings about peace by Jesus coming to this world, living in our place and dying in our place. He took all of our sins the day after he spoke these words to the cross, and there all of our sins were punished, and now God doesn't look at us and say, “I had to take away your sins, but what you put me through, I am not so sure if I like you or not.” That's how we might view a former enemy.

He views us with love. He doesn't give peace to us that the world gives. His peace is a peace that is perfect love for us, perfect desire for what is best for us, a perfect promise that he will always be with us and sustain us. His peace doesn't eventually lapse back into disagreement. You get in an argument with your best friend when you are growing up, you make up and you make peace between you, right? How long would it take before maybe you go into another fight over something silly? God never gets angry at our sin again because he took it away in Christ. The forgiveness for all people of all time has been won by Christ. That peace is a certainty. That is what our God has done for us. That is what our God has done for everyone in the world.

That peace is unlike anything in this world, because it takes away our sin. It gives us that eternal home that Revelation talked about today. And it gives us the certainty that it is ours. God will never turn away from us. We might turn away from him, but God never turns away from us. It is a peace that is not like what the world gives.

That peace changes us, at least when we are at our best. But there are many days when we are not at our best and we have things that trouble and worry us. So our God comes to us and he seeks to teach us a lesson—turn to him. Kind of like our Moms—they taught us a lot of lessons, right? Besides clean your plate, didn't they also tell you about making sure that you wear clean underwear so that if you are in an accident you can be alright when you get to the hospital? They also told us to eat our vegetables, right? You didn't like that lesson, did you? But maybe now you are a little bit older and you went to the doctor and he has done a blood test. Your cholesterol is up. Your

blood pressure is high and all of a sudden, a doctor is sitting down and looking you in the eyes and telling you to eat your vegetables, eat chicken, eat less, do this, and do that. Then you are walking out the door thinking, “That sounds just like my Mom. Maybe I should have listened to her sooner and I wouldn’t be taking this medicine.”

Sometimes we are like that with the lessons God wants to teach us. He says, “When your hearts are troubled, turn to me for peace.” But you and I don’t always listen to that, do we? When we want peace, we look at different places at times. When we have something that troubles us, something that worries us, something we are anxious about, something that is just tearing our stomachs up—do we go pick up our Bible or do we go pick up a bottle? Where do you find yourself at times? Do we think, “If only I was closer to God, things would be better”? Or do we think, “If only my bank account was better, I would have a more certain retirement”? Think about yourself for this week—did you spend more time talking about what you are going to do for Mother’s Day dinner, or what God has done for you in Christ? Did you spend more time thinking about things of this world, maybe what you are going to do sometime, or did you think about God? When you were worried, where did you turn?

God says, “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Turn to me. Don’t be afraid. Turn to me. Look at the peace I give you. It comes to you through the Holy Spirit. It comes to you through the Word.” God says that to us and we’ve heard him say that over and over. Yet, I find it amazing how we don’t have time for that Word—that thing that God says is going to take away the difficulty. I’m amazed—not just at other people—I’m amazed at myself at times that I don’t turn to the Word when I am worried. I’ll turn to other things, and I know better and I love studying the Bible, but the sinner in me still does stupid stuff at times. I’m sure he does in you too.

Our God loves us so much he gave us the Word, he gave us water and the Word, he gave us wafer, wine and the Word so that we would have these different ways to be assured he loves us, to be assured we are at peace with God. That is where he wants us to run. That is where he wants us to flee and to see the love he has for us. He has it spoken to us. He has it there for our eyes. He has it there for our taste. He has it there in a tangible way so that we can know how much he loves us and how much he wants us to be at peace and not be troubled. The Word and Sacraments are God’s arms wrapped around us when we are afraid. The Word and Sacraments are our mother’s touch that tells us that everything is going to be alright. It is our God coming close to us and saying, “*Peace I leave with you*” (John 14:27).

We know he has taken away our sins, so as we go forward with his Spirit’s power, we can go to that Word and to those Sacraments for our strength. We can go to that Word and those Sacraments for that peace. We can find in him the good news, the message of his love, and that brings the joy—*Sing for Joy* as our children told us this morning—that keeps us awake after a long night out, that keeps us smiling, that keeps us full of joy even when the world around us is falling apart, because we have a God whose love is certain and a God whose peace is eternal.