

Pastor's Message

April

"Why do you seek the living One among the dead?" the angel asked. The time for Jesus to die has passed. Now is the time for Him to live. Boy does He! The power of His indestructible life He now gives to you!

He gives it to you by uniting you to His own living body. There is a time to be born and a time to be born again, anew! Baptism! You are baptized into the Easter of His unending life. All your sins have been drowned in the sea of His blood. All your death has died in the ocean of His mercy.

Easter is the day when Jesus says, *"Behold, I am making all things new."* He makes you new in Himself with a new identity! No longer a child of this world, but a child of the heavenly Father. He will hold you and never let you go. Through every pain, every loss in this fallen world, He is by your side. Nothing and no one will separate you from His love -- not sickness, loneliness, the deepest, darkest valleys of this life. And He will love you even into the grave.

From that grave, He will show you, once more, His love on the last day of this world. He will reappear at the culmination of history -- when the earth and the heavens will vanish in smoke. He will transform you from dust and ashes back into flesh. He will stand you on your feet, in a body pain-free, sickness-free, death-free -- glorious and magnificent, like His own.

Jesus will Easter you!

You will worship the Lamb in His kingdom that has no end -- face to face. He will wipe every tear from your eyes. No more death, or mourning, or crying, or pain. There shall be only Jesus, with you, for you. For He is risen! He is risen, indeed! And in Him you too shall rise!

Pastor Bert