

May 2020

***I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" -  
Psalm 122:1***

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. You don't know what you've got 'till it's gone.

Do these ring true for you? Have you made it to this point yet? Do we realize the things we have neglected or taken for granted once they have been taken away? I really do hope the answer is "yes." I pray we would *long for the pure spiritual milk that by it you may grow up into salvation (1 Peter 2:2)*.

But Christ hasn't been taken away from us. He remains with us and for us. Things have only been adjusted for the time being. Yet we should long to be in the house of the Lord. We should long to be in church. This was David's prayer many times in the Psalms. Yes he had God Word and promises in his heart and mind and on his lips, but he longed to be in church - *Let us go to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122)*.

In the church, the pastor stands in the stead and by the command of Christ to forgive those who fear their sins. In the church, faith is sustained and nourished like a newborn at her mother's breast as God's Word is proclaimed and the Holy Supper is distributed according to Christ's command. In the church, our Lord gathers us under His wings like a hen does her chicks as heaven meets earth and we are shielded from the attacks of the devil.

It was David's prayer to be in the house of the Lord, in Jerusalem where the Word of God was in the temple, in a specific place. The church is our Jerusalem and the risen Christ is our temple, city, altar, and mercy seat, to which, from which, and with which we seek and hear His Word and receive abundant blessings - the pure spiritual milk which gives us all good things. Let our prayer ring out to be in the house of the Lord once again seeking His forgiveness for any apathy we formerly held for the Third Commandment and the place where He gathers His children to be fed. Let us long to be refreshed by the river of life which flowed from our Savior's side and spills into the chalice.

Dear saints, the Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Take to the Word of God and prayer in your home and be ever watchful for every opportunity you have to be in the house of the Lord from this time on. May God in His mercy keep us from ever having to be jarred in this way again. Christ is risen from the dead. Let us place all of our confidence, our whole lives, in that. He is faithful. He will deliver us. He has baptized us and we are His.

Alleluia! Christ is risen, indeed!  
Pastor Suggitt