

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Jesus is in Heaven, for Us"

By Pastor Rick Rostek, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton

Forty days after He rose from the dead, Jesus led His disciples to Bethany, then ascended back to heaven (Luke 24:50-51). We might wonder why Jesus didn't just stay on earth and carry out His reign from here. But the fact that Jesus did ascend back to heaven, to sit at His Father's right hand, means some important things for those who put their trust in Him.

First, Jesus regains His full glory. When Jesus was born of Mary in Bethlehem, He set aside much of His divine power that He might walk among His people. While He still performed miraculous signs, He also died on a cross as the punishment for the sin of the world. In His resurrection, however, He took back His rightful divine power so that when He ascended back to His Father, He took back His reign over all things.

In heaven, Jesus is our High Priest. As the

writer to the Hebrews says, Jesus is our High Priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses because He was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin. Jesus knows our situation and that means He is not a distant ruler in heaven.

He created us, He knows us, He died for us, and He forgives us even when we falter in our own sinfulness. That's the power of His grace and mercy.

Jesus also ascended to heaven to pray on our behalf. This gives us great confidence in

knowing that when we pray in Jesus' name, our prayers are heard, and Jesus is there praying for us at the same time. That makes our prayers powerful and effective.

The disciples reacted to Jesus' ascension by returning to the temple to rejoice and praise God for all that He had done. Knowing that Jesus has ascended back to His Father means that we can rejoice, too. Our Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world by dying on the cross. By rising from the dead and ascending to heaven, we have the full assurance that the death of Jesus' was accepted by God as the sacrifice for sin.

Believing in Jesus and all that He has done means that we will one day be in His presence, never to be apart from Him again. Even now, Jesus invites you to share in the hope and joy of eternal life. Believe in Jesus, that He is in heaven, for us.



Remembering

On Memorial Day we remember those who died while serving in our Armed Forces. They fought for the future of our country and experienced overwhelming and difficult circumstances. For many of us it is impossible to conceive of the price they paid for us. This Memorial Day, as you visit the gravesides of those who gave their lives in service, give thanks to God for their great gift.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah
49.1-26	51.1-16	65.17-25	29.1-23	30.1-24	31.1-22	31.23-40

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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MEMORIAL DAY
 5-30-11
 There will be **NO** paper on
 Monday, May 30 or
 Tuesday, May 31

This is due to the holiday weekend and the office being closed on Monday, May 30. The Monday EXTRA and Tuesday's paper will be combined and distributed Wednesday, June 1 just as the regular Monday EXTRA would be, free to everyone in Norton

Ad Deadline for Memorial Day
With no paper on Monday, May 30, we will need ads for the Wednesday, June 1 paper no later than Thursday noon on May 28. THIS PAPER GOES FREE TO EVERYONE IN NORTON, SO NOW IS THE TIME TO ADVERTISE!!

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