

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



Weekly Sermon Series

Our Peace

Read Psalm 85 and Romans 5. Many of us find it difficult to talk about peace when the world is in such turmoil. Aggression and disruption from forces outside destroy our peace, as does abuse from familiar people within a community or family. The fearful mind crippling of less-than-peaceful surroundings makes us feel that life is all out of control, with too much left up to fate.

However, the type of peace that this scripture refers to is the knowledge that comes from within our souls, not something from the outside. It is peace that passes understanding, because it can exist even when chaos and disturbance exist all around us. It can be present when we approach death, when we are battling illness, when our workplace is not in order, when our family is in crisis, and so on. In other words, it doesn't make sense. But it is a gift, nonetheless. A gift from Jesus. He said: "My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27). The psalmist talks about the gifts of love and faith that God delivers. When we accept those gifts, they produce righteousness and peace, also gifts from God. When we hold these promises dear, especially as we suffer, God will deliver hope to us. There is a better future.

Describe the gifts from Romans 5 using synonyms:

Peace is like ...

Joy is like ...

Perseverance is like ...

Hope is like ...

Outpouring love is like ...

Justification by his blood is like ...

Reconciliation is like ...

Have you experienced these gifts? When? How can we pass these promises on to our children and grandchildren?

Lord, we desire to know you better. We are in awe of your gift of salvation through your sacrifice on the cross. And we are grateful for your Holy Spirit within us, guiding us and reminding us of your love. Let us be examples of a living faith that produces peace. In your holy name, Amen.

-- Week of February 14, 2010