

1/23/18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Can you imagine how horrible Peter must have felt on Good Friday evening and Saturday? He'd blown it, blown it, blown it! He couldn't have failed more miserably! Just as Jesus had told him, he had denied his Savior three times! How horrible those days must have been for Peter! Can you imagine how he was haunted every time he heard a rooster crow?

Peter of course is not the only one who's blown it. As I consider my life, I see my failures over and over again. I've failed to fight temptation, failed to show love, failed to be faithful. I've failed! And sometimes I've failed spectacularly. I can relate to Peter and how disappointed he was in himself. Perhaps like him I even weep bitterly. We, too, may hear a "rooster" crow when we are reminded of a horrible sin or sins that we committed in the past.

But oh, how things changed for Peter on Easter Sunday, as Jesus came popping into the room and showed the disciples his hands and side! He was risen! He had conquered! Sin was forgiven! The proof was in those nail-scarred—but risen!!!—hands of Jesus! In fact, even Peter's sin was forgiven!

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

Your sins are fully forgiven, because Jesus died and rose! And so, you have a new birth into a hope which is living and ongoing! Trusting in Jesus, you ARE going to heaven! That is true today, will be true tomorrow, and someday you'll enjoy the full blessings of it! It's proven true by Jesus' rising from the dead!

And so, you have real hope, sure hope. No matter if your life is going great or poorly, if you're old or young, if you're successful or struggling, you have real, sure hope! You ARE going to heaven! Jesus' resurrection proves it!

Prayer: *O risen Savior, remind me of your resurrection, that I might live my life in hope, every day. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

...See you in church.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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