

Consider a hospital. And during plague. Yet if you need to go to that particular hospital, you may be rebuked, scoffed at for going. But you know at that hospital there is a Great Physician, whose care cannot be received at other hospitals where people go.

And the world rebukes you for going, rebukes what this Great Physician gives, they say His medicine is unneeded, even useless, especially in the plague.

Even friends will say, there is no need for you to go to that hospital. You do not need that Great Physician, there are other doctors. Friends, the world -it's not essential for you to go see that great Physician at that particular hospital.

But whether you stay home and still long for that hospital, can't wait to get to that Great Physician again, or you do insist on coming -you know His care is unlike any other care. You know He has the perfect cure for your disease, and also a perfect remedy for plague. He has the perfect answer to bind up your wounds, He has the perfect medicine to keep you always alive.

And this Great physician provides care to you without cost, will always welcome anyone to come, to receive the healing, to receive His ongoing care, receive foremost a medicine that will provide for you even immortality.

This is what has always happened in every age. In every plague. In every time of fear and unrest. Ever since Jesus speaks of Himself as a Physician, even as the entire Scriptures speaks of His care. How blessed are you to have this Great Physician, pouring out to you the cure for the disease for your body and soul. His care, unique unto you.

In Wittenberg during the plague, while the Prince, government ordered the Wittenberg University faculty and those able to leave town, Martin Luther who also served as pastor -stayed and his colleague and pastor Johann Bugenhagen, and many essential and non-essential people also stayed, while other left in exile, longing to return. And Luther will even address we have no judgment for those who leave, but as had been done before in every age, Luther,

Bugenhagen continued to have daily divine services to attend to the sick and those living in fear of death. Intriguing, Luther wrote how the Church is even more essential during plague.

Our lives and all the things we have taken for granted and normal things have changed, uncertain when it ends and when it comes back.

In reality, this is not the worst that has befallen us and it is not the last threat we will endure. But sin has tuned your heart to fear and made it hard to hope.

Like those Emmaus disciples, we want proof. That our hope is real, certainty. That's where Emmaus men were. It's where you are. Faith is a reach for us. That's why its always the work of the Holy Spirit. From the day we first believed -to the daily encounters with fear and disappointment we must overcome. Faith works only because the Spirit is at work in us, through very Word, Sacraments, giving you to faith -then sustaining as you endure whatever comes next.

As with them, you too, the Lord opens all Scripture to you, all about Him, and reveals His very presence in the Supper.

We fight the same fight today. We might think those Emmaus men and the apostles got proof positive Jesus was raised and all we got were words on a page. They did not get more than you get.

The entire Scripture not only all speak of the Christ, but they united Him to you no less than those disciples. And there is absolutely certainty. And that is enough for you.

Dear child of God, you are not without consolation, not without His promises that never fail, not without power. For Christ is with you, Christ is for you, pleading His blood for your sins; Christ with you every moment, everyday, with you in every tear and laugh, every heartache and joy. Never, ever alone. Do not fear. Be of good courage, you have His life, His peace. In times of great uncertainty, Christ is your God and you are His own. His life is your life, living in His gifts, this is the only thing that matters. This, what happens here, is the most real, true thing in all your life. And your hope is certain for it is in Christ.

