**Morning Devotion for Monday, April 20, 2020**

**“Death Would Start Working Backwards”**

**Welcome to Morning Devotion at Trinity Lutheran Church.**

**Let us first hear from a key eyewitness of Jesus’ resurrection on the absolute necessity and centrality of the Easter event in the life of a believer; from the Apostle Peter’s first letter to the church in the 7th decade of the first century [1 Peter 1:3-9]:**

***Blessed be the Lord God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.***

**C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) was a professor of English literature at Oxford and Cambridge. Born in Belfast he was baptized in the Church of Ireland, but fell away and became an atheist during adolescence. Lewis was also a writer, and became close friends with a fellow Oxford English professor and writer, J.R. Tolkien. Due to the witness of Tolkien and other Christian intellectuals, Lewis returned to faith at age 32 and joined the Anglican church. He became a leading lay theologian, and during World War II, his radio broadcasts on the subject of the Christian faith brought much comfort to Christians, brought many who had strayed from their own Baptisms back to the Church, and brought him wide acclaim. His writing career also blossomed with works of fiction such as The Screwtape Letters and The Chronicles of Narnia, as did his non-fiction Christian apologetics, such as Mere Christianity, Miracles, and The Problem of Pain.**

**In his book The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe, the character Edmund had been enslaved by the White Witch. He had been foolish and rebellious and evil and traitorous. And this led him to her where he fell into her power. When the Great Lion, Aslan, came to rescue him, the wicked witch reminded him of the Deep Magic that was written on the Table of Stone—that every traitor belongs to her, and she has first rights to the blood of every sinner. But, to the amazement of all, after Aslan spoke to her privately, she let Edmund go. Later that night Aslan surrendered himself into the witches camp. They took him, shaved off his magnificent mane, ridiculed him, beat him, spat on him, and tied him to the Table of Stone. The witch whetted her knife, drew near him, and plunged it into the lion’s heart, killing him. In the distance, Aslan’s dear friends, Lucy and Susan, cried and cried, and the next morning they arrived to recover his body. But they found the Table of Stone broken, and the body of Aslan was nowhere to be found.**

**Suddenly they turned around, and there he stood, larger and more beautiful than ever, shaking his magnificent mane, fully and physically alive. They hugged and kissed him, weeping for joy. Then they asked him, “Aslan, what does all of this mean?”**

**This was Aslan’s reply: “It means that though the witch knew the Deep Magic, there is a magic deeper still which she did not know. Her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, which she could not do because she, too, was created in time; if she could have known and believed in the stillness and darkness of eternity before the dawn of time, she would have read there a different incantation. She would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor’s stead, the Table of Stone would crack and Death itself would start working backwards.”**

**That’s our point to ponder on this twentieth day of April, *anno Domini* 2020. Easter has shattered the power of sin and death, and forced death to start working backwards!**

[Thank you for joining us. It’s a beautiful morning here in the Ozarks. God bless your day wherever you are.]



 Clive Staples Lewis

 **(**Give him a read; even better than Harry Potter)