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Text: Romans 8:28-39
Date: July 30, 2017
Setting: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

His Blood to Save the World

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You turn on the nightly news and see that there were a few unexplained deaths from a mystery flu in France last night. The next day that number increases and all over Europe people are dying by the hundreds. It sounds as though a person develops the symptoms and then within 4 days, they die. With the increasing number of deaths, the borders all over Europe have closed in an attempt to stop the spread of this unexplained flu. It has now spread to Asia and people are dying by the thousands, no one has any idea how to make an antidote for it.

Then the news comes in, it has reached the east coast of the United States and is marching west across the nation with incredible speed. A glimmer of hope appears, on the news you hear that the code has been cracked and an antidote can be made, the catch is it can only be made with blood that hasn't been infected. New stations are telling everyone to go to the hospital to see if their blood hasn't been infected yet and if it can be used to develop a cure.

You take your family to the hospital to get tested. The halls are packed and a nurse pricks your finger to test your blood. You sit and wait to hear if any of your family has clean blood.

A man comes running down the hall waving a clipboard in the air and yells out a name. He yells it again and again. Suddenly your son tugs on your jacket and says "Daddy, that's me." Before you know it, they have grabbed your son. You yell out, "Wait, what are you doing?" The doctors tell you, "It's ok, his blood is clean, his blood is pure. We want to make sure he doesn't have any of the disease. We think he has the right blood type."

Around the hospital and parking lot people are cheering and shouting for joy, a cure has been found. The doctors approach you with a clipboard in hand and ask you to give your consent for your son to give blood. Your eyes look over to the extreme number of pints required and you ask astonished, "How many pints?" The doctor answers, "We had no idea he had that much blood, but we need it all."

You ask in a frantic voice, "Can you at least do a blood transfusion?" The doctor replies with a solemn voice, "No, we don't have any clean blood for that. Can you sign? Would you sign?"

In numb silence, you do sign. The doctor asks if you would like a moment with your son before they begin. You walk down the hall and seeing your son on the table he asks you, "What's going on, when can we go home?" You put your arms around him and say, "Son, your mommy and I love you, and we would never ever let anything happen to you that just had to be. Do you understand that?"

Just then the head doctor comes back and says, "We have to begin we have to get started, people all over the world are dying." Would you be able to leave? Could you walk out when he is saying "Mommy? Daddy? Why are you leaving me? Why...Why are you forsaking me?"

The next week, there is a ceremony to honor your son. Some people sleep through it. Some people don't come because they choose to do something else. And some folks come with a pretentious smile and just pretend to care. Would you want to jump up and say, "My son died for you! Don't you care?" Is that what He wants you to say? "My son died for you. Don't you know how much I care?"

But God gives more than anyone ever thought that He would. He gave his only son.

We face many things in this life that oppose us. We endure the effects of famine, drought, wild fires, wars, terrorist attacks, disease and so much more. It can be hard to face that reality and ask where God is in all of it.

God gives us everything we have and need. As Luther says: “He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise serve and obey Him.”

Of all the wonderful things that God gives us, do we deserve any of it? No. What does we deserve? We deserve death, hell and damnation because of our sins. Why? Because we are fallen creation and sinners needing someone to save us. Someone to save each of us. Someone to save the entire world.

As we go through this life seeing all the impact that sin has on it, we are reminded that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. We live only because Christ died and rose for us. Was this anything that we did? No. It is based only on the love that God has for us, when He didn't spare His Son's death for us.

How incredible is the love that God has for us? We look at the long list the Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, describing all the things of this world that work to tear us down.

As Paul writes, “Who shall separate us from the love of God? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine or nakedness or sword. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

We have the ultimate victory, not because of what we have done, but because of what Christ has done. Because of what God did in sending His only Son. “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave himself up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things.” Amen.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21