

The Rev. Joel Petruschke
Our Saviour Lutheran Church
April 16, 2023
Easter 2

Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us pray...may the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, for you are our strength and you are most certainly our redeemer. AMEN.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, my sermon this morning will be quite brief, as we had wanted to devote time to Matt and Stacy this morning. So, again, I will be brief.

And, I just have one image I wanted to share with you, an image in relation to last week's message.

Last week, I mentioned the need for us to share the Easter proclamation over and over and over again.

That Easter proclamation being, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"

I noted last week that that Easter proclamation can seem almost inadequate in terms of affecting an indifferent world.

I mean, really, how effective is the proclamation, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" so as to change the world.

And so in thinking about the sermon from last week, an image came to mind—it is an image from Shakespeare.

In Sonnet 65 by Shakespeare, he writes:
Since brass, nor stone, nor earth, nor boundless sea,
But sad mortality, o'ersways their power.
How with this rage shall beauty hold a plea,
Whose action is no stronger than a flower?

In other words, Shakespeare is saying, how can beauty bear witness in the world...
...how can beauty survive in the world...
...how can beauty influence the world...
...when its power against the ravages of mortality, and when its power against the raging of the world...

...how can beauty win out, when its power is no stronger than that of a fragile flower?

Since brass, nor stone, nor earth, nor boundless sea,
But sad mortality, o'ersways their power.
How with this rage shall beauty hold a plea,
Whose action is no stronger than a flower?

And I was thinking, we can equate Shakespeare's sentiment with that of the Easter proclamation.

How can the message "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" hope to affect an often time raging, indifferent world?

But then we think of this springtime, and we think of the millions upon millions of blossoms dotting the earth's landscape.

And so, beauty has a powerful witness in the world, for it is not just one fragile flower, but an over abundance of flowers through which beauty is making its plea.

In the same way, we need to proclaim the message "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" over and over and over again.

We need to proclaim the Easter message with abandon.

We need to proclaim the Easter message *ad nauseum*.

We need to spread the message like God so freely spread the blooms of spring around the landscape.

And in that, in that, the Easter proclamation does indeed have the power to affect the world.

Thanks be to God. Amen.