



Midweek Meditation



"And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven...'" John 20:22-23

Who can express what an unspeakable, mighty and blessed comfort it is that a human being can with one word open heaven and lock hell to a fellow mortal? For in this Kingdom of Grace Christ has founded through His resurrection, we do indeed nothing else than open our mouth and say, "I forgive thee thy sins, not on my account, nor by my power, but in the place of, and in the name of, Jesus Christ." Martin Luther

There was no respiratory virus infecting the world when Jesus breathed on His disciples. Yet even had there been, what He breathed out was not death, but life. God is life, and what He breathes out gives life to the world. When He created man, He breathed the breath of life into him, "and the man became a living creature." He did the same thing after man sinned. God breathed out the word of forgiveness to restore life to Adam and Eve.

On Easter evening Jesus breathed out the Gospel of forgiveness on His disciples for them, and for them to breathe into all the world. A recent survey shows that more than half of Americans fear that their sins are not forgiven. Jesus does not want you to have this fear. The forgiveness of sins He purchased by His blood is for you. Your sins are forgiven. And where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven; And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven. Dying, still to Him I cleave; Jesus sinners doth receive. Amen!