



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What was going through their minds that evening? They knew about the empty tomb. They had heard Mary Magdalene's eyewitness testimony. Gathered in a room with the doors locked because they were afraid of what the leaders of the Jews might do to them, their heads were likely swimming. They couldn't shake the thought of what they'd done when Jesus was arrested. Though they had promised that they would never forsake him, they all ran away.

The disciples knew that Jesus had good reason to be disappointed with them. No one would have blamed him if he had refused to appear to the disciples who abandoned him in fear.

Instead, Jesus graciously came and stood among them. From his mouth came not one word about their failure; not one word about his disappointment with them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he showed them his hands and his side, proof of his unconditional love. All had been forgiven.

With that word of forgiveness, Jesus did away with their fear and doubt. He replaced it with unadulterated joy. What's more, Jesus demonstrated that all had been forgiven when he said, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21). Amazingly, Jesus still had work for them to do in his kingdom.

Our Risen Savior continues to deal graciously with sinners. We know it personally. He comes to us undeserving sinners, proclaims his Word of forgiveness, and takes away our guilt. Through those he has called to preach his gospel, he speaks peace to our hearts.

There are 120 men enrolled at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, all of them eager to be the Lord's instruments to speak that word of peace. Joy in the Risen Savior so fills their hearts that they have decided to prepare for service as pastors in his Church.

As you revel in the peace that is yours in Christ and reflect on the messengers the Lord has used to bring the word of forgiveness to you, please pray for the students at the seminary. As you are able, please consider a gift to the Seminary Fund, which allows us to direct funds to where they are most needed, or the Scholarship Fund, which provides assistance for students.

The Risen Savior's word of peace drives out fear and grants joy. Let's get the word out.

In our Risen Lord,

President Earle D. Treptow

