

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

March 2024

Gods Peace!

Spring is coming early this year at our place in Michigan! It is time to prune our trees, to remove the dead and dying wood, the overcrowded and shaded. It will soon be time to graft the good branches into the hardy roots to create a tree that produces desirable fruit. As it is written in Roman 11th chapter:

²⁰Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: ²¹For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee. ²²Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. ²³**And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.** ²⁴For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree? ²⁵For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits;".

We see that God took us out of the wild olive and grafted us into Himself, it's the perfect time to consider this miracle as we are experiencing the natural example at this time of year. He also exhorts us to remember where we came from, how we became His children, by His Goodness and Grace, not of our own works. That we should be careful and considerate in our walk, that it would be by faith and in His Spirit, taking heed to our actions and walking in the Fear of the Lord, as Pr 9:10 exhorts "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is understanding.*"

May God bless each of us in this spring season, and may we count our blessing and give thanks each day that He would cultivate a grateful attitude in our hearts!

Gods Peace,
Tyson Mattila