



The Letter of Hope

1 Peter . . . continued

hope in Christ

Opening

Christ has risen from the dead,
God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,
He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
He has put all things under His feet.

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

+ Read 1 Peter 1:10–11. On the basis of these verses, provide a summary for:

- (a) all of Scripture (both Testaments);
- (b) the life of Christ, especially Holy Week;
- (c) the Christian life.

We see in 1 Peter a focus on Christ's:

+ suffering and death—1:11; 2:21–25; 3:18–19; 4:1, 13;

+ blood—1 Peter 1:2, 18–19;

+ resurrection and glory—1 Peter 1:3, 21; 3:18–21;

+ ascension and session to the right hand of the Father—2:5; 3:22;

+ return in glory—1:5, 7, 13; 4:13; 5:4, 10

What Does This Mean?

+ How does this give you hope?

1 Peter 5:6–11 ▪ Exhortation to Humility and Trust

+ St. Peter describes the devil as a “roaring lion.” In the face of this lion, what should we do?

+ How might this section reflect Peter’s own personal experience? See John 21:15–19.

+ What blessing and promise do Peter give?

What Does This Mean?

+ How does the description of devil admonish and encourage us as Christians to receive the Sacrament frequently?

+ What difference does it make to know that God cares for you?

1 Peter 5:12–14 ▪ Final Greetings

+ What do we learn about Silvanus (Silas) and Mark?

Closing

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ What three figurative terms are used in 1 Peter 5:13? How may this verse help indicate the time and place of 1 Peter?

+ What does church tradition state about Peter’s last days?

+ How does Peter describe the purpose of his letter?

+ How does the letter end?

What Does This Mean?

+ What will you take away from today’s study?

Luther: The devil is called the master of a thousand arts. But what shall we call God’s Word, which drives away and brings to nothing this master of a thousand arts with all his arts and power? The Word must indeed be the master of more than a hundred thousand arts. . . . We must daily use it against the daily and unending attacks and lurking of the devil. (LC Longer Preface, 12–13)



The Letter of Hope

1 Peter . . . continued

hope in Christ, our Shepherd

Opening

*Christ has risen from the dead,
God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,
He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
He has put all things under His feet.*

*The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.*

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Shepherd(s) and Sheep

+ Read 1 Peter 2:21–25. St. Peter describes Jesus both as an example for us and as “Shepherd and Overseer” of your souls.

- What is the significance of “you were straying like sheep” and “have now returned”? How is this true of all people?
- How does this speak to St. Peter’s own life? See John 21:15–19.
- What does a shepherd do? An overseer?
- Of what is Jesus Shepherd and Overseer?
- Read Isaiah 53:1–7. In what ways does St. Peter draw on this passage?
- *Other OT:* For the Shepherd as a messianic figure, see Psalm 23; Jeremiah 23:3–6; 31:10; Ezekiel 34:11–16, 23–24.
- *Other NT:* For Jesus as Shepherd, see John 10 and Matthew 9:36–38.

+ Reflect:

- What would happen to a wandering sheep?
- What does a wandering sheep need?
- What responsibility does Jesus make toward us? What commitment does He take on?

+ Read 1 Peter 5:1–4. Even as St. Peter keeps in view the picture of Jesus as Shepherd, he now addresses the (under-)shepherds.

- Where does the exhortation to “shepherd the flock” originate?
- What is involved in shepherding? In exercising oversight?
- To whom does the flock belong? See John 10:14; Acts 20:28.
- What is the significance of Jesus being the chief-/arch-/head-/first-Shepherd?

+ *Reflect:*

- What does it mean to call this a “pastoral theology”?
- What responsibilities are attached to the pastoral office? What strength and promise is given here to pastors? What warnings are implied?

Luther: Thank God, today a seven-year-old child knows what the Church is, namely, the holy believers and lambs who hear the voice of their Shepherd (John 10:11–16). For the children pray, “I believe in one holy Christian Church.
(*Smalcald Articles*, III, XII, 2–3)

Closing

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.