**The Lord, the Waymaker (Exodus 14:10-14)**

 We find ourselves in front of the (proverbial) Red Sea, but let’s remember that the Lord is the Waymaker. I hope that all of you are listening to me from the comfort of your homes and that you followed the reading in your Bibles. Today we find ourselves facing the Red Sea. The virus is today’s “Egyptian” which has caught up to us from behind. Just like the Israelites, we find ourselves in a position in which mere human answers are insufficient. Today’s Red Sea is not only the situation that the spread of the virus has caused; it is, and perhaps even more importantly, our faith-stance in the face of the virus and its effects. So, we find ourselves before the Red Sea, but let us remember that it is the Lord who will open the way for us to go through.

 Moses said, “Do not be afraid”. Today, the message is no different – “Do not fear,” says the Lord to us; do not complain (about the hardship of the situation), but rather watch how the Lord’s intervention will come.

 The reputation of Egypt as a kingdom was well known in those days. It was an advanced, rather organized kingdom. However, they did not know God, and they had enslaved the people of God over time. The situation had become so unbearable that the (enslaved) people had begun to complain and to cry out to the heavens for an answer.

 Today, you and I are not to rely on our own strength for salvation from this difficult situation. In impossible situations, God’s salvation does not come through logical or natural means. Often, God answers impossible situations with incomprehensible means. Think about it: He essentially told His own people to keep walking forwards right into the Red Sea! Yes, He did tell Moses to part the waters first (another illogical reality). However, the Israelites had to trust God and His Servant.

 Today God has given us the chance to bring all our complaints, fears and concerns to Him and to cease from making a lot of noise. Just as the Israelites quieted down and stopped complaining and watched God open the way, we also are to approach this Red Sea (of the whole coronavirus situation) in the same way. God gave Moses a way to move forwards, and today, as you can see, God’s Word is still being preached to you in a different, perhaps unforeseen way. It may be that you think that this (kind of preaching) doesn’t count as “doing church”. But “Wherever two or three are gathered in My Name, there I am in the midst of them,” says the Lord – whether we are gathered in person or online.

 My dear brother and sister, God is going to open your way to go forwards. Look to the Lord for answers about how. God is going to free both me and you in His own unique way and it will never work out according to our calculations. Therefore, do not be afraid, trust in the Lord, who is the Creator of heaven and earth (and everything in between), and watch in faith as to what He will do in your life to the obstacles in your way as a child of God.

 No virus, no fear, and no impossible situation can survive before God. Moses said, “Do not fear.” Today, the message is the same – “Do not fear, do not complain, but rather watch the how the Lord’s salvation will come.” The Lord is going to open the way forwards. Believe this. Amen.