

# The Third Sunday of Easter

## April 14, 2024

Everything about the Christian faith centers on Jesus' resurrection from the dead. St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:14, "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." If the resurrection of Jesus is so crucial to our Christian faith that without it Christianity is a waste of time, then it is natural that our observance and celebration of Easter should last more than one day.

In the stores, Easter is past. It is time to sell Mother's Day cards and flowers. But in the Church Year, Easter lasts for seven weeks. We continue to rejoice that because Christ has risen from the dead, we too shall rise. We sing the Easter hymns. Our Alleluias echo forth with great vigor. Our hearts rejoice in Easter triumph and Easter joy.

In fact, we celebrate Easter every Sunday. Since Christ rose from the dead on Sunday, every Sunday is a little Easter. Try to not let the world dim your Easter joy!

Pastor Quardokus

### Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

Lutheran Service Book 467, Lutheran Worship 128, The Lutheran Hymnal 192



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, See what to - day is done;  
2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed When Christ lay in the tomb;  
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—What peace it doth im - part!  
4 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, Of all their pow'r are shorn;



Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, Comes forth the glo - rious sun.  
But lo, he now is rout - ed, His boast is turned to gloom.  
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens The joy with - in my heart.  
Now I am safe from e - vil, And sin I laugh to scorn.



My Sav - ior there was laid Where our bed must be made  
For Christ a - gain is free; In glo - rious vic - to - ry  
No gloom shall ev - er shake, No foe shall ev - er take  
Grim death with all its might Can - not my soul af - fright;



When to the realms of light Our spir - it wings its flight.  
He who is strong to save Has tri - umphed o'er the grave.  
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.  
It is a pow'r - less form, How - e'er it rave and storm.

5 The world against me rages,  
Its fury I disdain;  
Though bitter war it wages,  
Its work is all in vain.  
My heart from care is free,  
No trouble troubles me.  
Misfortune now is play,  
And night is bright as day.

6 Now I will cling forever  
To Christ, my Savior true;  
My Lord will leave me never,  
Whate'er He passes through.  
He rends death's iron chain;  
He breaks through sin and pain;  
He shatters hell's grim thrall;  
I follow Him through all.

7 He brings me to the portal  
That leads to bliss untold,  
Whereon this rhyme immortal  
Is found in script of gold:  
"Who there My cross has shared  
Finds here a crown prepared;  
Who there with Me has died  
Shall here be glorified."

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**L** In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**C** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth. (*Psalms 124:8*)

**L** Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

**C** Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalms 19:12, 13*)

**L** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalms 130:3–4*)

**L** Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

**C** God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

(*Luke 18:13*)

**L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### Introit *Psalms 30:1–5*; antiphon *Psalms 16:11b*

**L** In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**C** I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up  
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

- L** O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.
- C** **O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**
- L** Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints,  
and give thanks to his holy name.
- C** **For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- L** In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

## Kyrie

- L** O Lord,           **C** **Have Mercy on us.**
- L** O Christ,       **C** **Have Mercy on us.**
- L** O Lord,           **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

## Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

- L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
- C** **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.**
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:
- C** **Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.
- C** **For You alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: 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.
- C** **Amen.**

## Acts 3:11–21

<sup>11</sup>While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. <sup>12</sup>And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

<sup>17c</sup>And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup>that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

**L** Christ has risen from the dead.

**C** God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,

**L** He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

**C** He has put all things under his feet.

### Psalm 4

**L** <sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

You have given me relief when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

**C** <sup>2</sup>**O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?**

**How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?**

**L** <sup>3</sup>But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

**C** <sup>4</sup>**Be angry, and do not sin;**  
**ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.**

**L** <sup>5</sup>Offer right sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the LORD.

**C** <sup>6</sup>**There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?"**  
**Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!"**

**L** <sup>7</sup>You have put more joy in my heart  
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

**C** <sup>8</sup>**In peace I will both lie down and sleep;**  
**for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

### 1 John 3:1-7

<sup>1</sup>See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse of the Day: Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia. **Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.**

## Luke 24:36–49

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>36</sup>As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!”  
<sup>37</sup>But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate before them. <sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

- L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## The Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen

## This Joyful Eastertide

Lutheran Service Book 482, Lutheran Worship 140, The Lutheran Hymnal N/A



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and  
2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the  
3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son

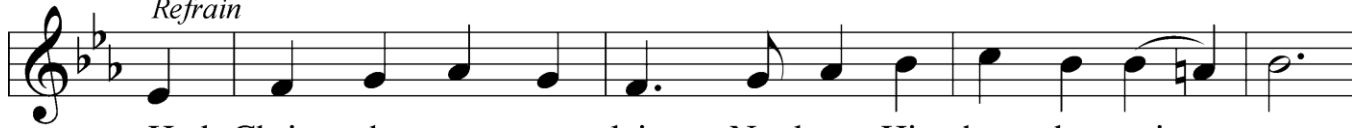


sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,  
riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill  
slum - ber Till trump from east to west



Has sprung to life this mor - row:  
My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:  
Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

*Refrain*



Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,



Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

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### Devotional thoughts:

There is an expression from England that sounds like a blessing but is actually a curse. It goes like this, “May you live in interesting times.”

Without a doubt, we live in interesting times. Technology is advancing by leaps and bounds. Everyone is talking about AI. (Artificial Intelligence). Politics are out of control. Ideas concerning morality have become muddled. We are perplexed each day by outrageous headlines. Confusion reigns. In other words, things are as they have always been.

The original thought behind the opening quotation about interesting times has been traced to a speech delivered in 1898 by the British politician, Joseph Chamberlain, in which he said, “I think that you will all agree that we are living in most interesting times. I never remember myself a time in which our history was so full, in which day by day brought us new objects of interest, and, let me say also, new objects for anxiety.”

The disciples lived in interesting times. Some people thought that God's kingdom was advancing by leaps and bounds. Religious leaders were out of control. The Pharisees' ideas about morality were muddled. They were perplexed each day by the demands of ministry. Most of all, they were very confused.

The Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are accounts of the life and work of Jesus. They could be subtitled: The Story of the Confusion of the Disciples.

Jesus taught humility and service. The disciples argued about who was the greatest and which of them would sit on Jesus' right and left hands (Mark 9:33-34 and Mark 10:35-37). The disciples were afraid of the storm. Jesus calmed the waves (Mark 4:35-41). The disciples tried to send the little children away. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). The disciples told Jesus to send the people to find something to eat. Jesus fed the 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-2). Today, we finally learn how their confusion was changed to understanding.

The disciples were gathered together listening to the report of Jesus' resurrection from the two disciples who had walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Jesus himself had appeared to them. He found them with doubting and troubled hearts. That was all about to change.

To prove His resurrection, Jesus showed them His hands and feet. He encouraged them to touch Him. However, they still disbelieved so He ate some fish.

Finally, He used the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms (what we call the Old Testament) to explain everything to them. Without God's word, the things we experience in the world just don't make sense.

Jesus explained to the disciples the Bible's ultimate message: The Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Here at the very end of the Gospel of Luke, everything comes together for the disciples. Jesus opens their eyes.

For us, like the disciples, nothing makes sense in our "interesting times" unless we remember these words of Jesus: The Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Then our eyes are opened.

Advances in technology are meaningless without the knowledge of God's love for us in Christ. Political power grabs are folly without wisdom that comes from above. Our morality is muddled if we feel no need for repentance and forgiveness. Headlines are depressing when we forget God's ultimate goal of salvation for sinners. When we are unaware of God's ultimate will for us, confusion reigns.

All this changes when God opens our eyes through the Scriptures. Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection make sense. God's law shows us our sin but in Jesus we discover forgiveness.

People often ask, "Why does God allow this outlandish and ridiculous world to continue?" He gave the answer to the disciples, "Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations." God allows the world to continue so that more people will come to faith and receive the gift of eternal life. Because of this, it is a blessing to live in these interesting times.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

## Prayers

**L** O Lord, open our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit working through Your word. Move us to repentance so that our sins may be blotted out by the forgiveness that Jesus won for us on the cross.

**C** Amen.

**L** O Lord, by Your love for us in Christ, You have made us children of God. As Your children help us to flee from the lawlessness of sin and seek Your righteousness in our lives.

**C** Amen.

**L** O God, You have instituted authorities to carry out Your justice. Bless all who make, administer, and judge the laws of our land. Give them wisdom, integrity, and honor to serve according to Your good will.

**C** Amen.

**L** O God of peace, during this time of war in the ancient land of Jesus' birth and in Ukraine, we pray that You would grant a swift end to the conflict and lasting peace, that right and justice would prevail, and that You would grant Your mighty hand of protection to the innocent and helpless.

**C** Amen.

**L** Visit us in Your compassion, O Lord. Deliver the sick from their infirmity, the troubled from their afflictions, the grieving from their sorrow, and the dying from their fear. May all who cry to You receive grace according to Your will. Help each of us to bear our crosses with patience and grace.

**C** Amen.

**L** Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You for graciously hearing our prayers. Put joy in our hearts as we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and look forward to the day that we will see You as You are and live with You for all eternity.

**C** Amen.

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

### He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

Lutheran Service Book 488, Lutheran Worship 520, The Lutheran Hymnal 189

He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled  
is God, my Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen.



My Je - sus did tri - um - phant die, And Sa - tan's ar -

rows bro - ken lie, De - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.

O hear what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing glo - rious,

Life is giv - ing. He was dead but now is liv - ing!

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### Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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# Enhancing Your Worship

## Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27  
My eyes are awake through the night watches,  
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

### The Week of The Third Sunday of Easter April 15 – 20, 2024

#### Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you mediate on what God has done for you.

#### Monday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

#### Verse of the Day: Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia. **Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.**

#### Introit Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon Psalm 16:11b

- L** In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
- C** **I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up  
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**
- L** O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.
- C** **O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**
- L** Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints,  
and give thanks to his holy name.
- C** **For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**L** In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**L** O Lord,           **C** **Have Mercy on us.**  
**L** O Christ,       **C** **Have Mercy on us.**  
**L** O Lord,           **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

Psalms 16 and 30 are paired in the introit for this week. They go together very well. You may choose to read them in their entirety.

Many people try to live without God. They claim not to need Him. They see religion as a sign of weakness. This way of thinking leads to eventual destruction in Sheol. (Unfortunately, the translators of the ESV chose to leave this word untranslated. An English equivalent is the grave.)

Just as God did not abandon Jesus in the grave (Psalm 16:10), so also God rescues us from the grave (Psalm 30:3) and gives us an eternity of joy with Him (Psalm 16:11).

We may have temporary troubles and hardships but God rescues us from them all. For this, we sing praises to Him with all the saints.

**L** Let us pray. Lord, thank You for the gift of eternal life and for rescuing us from the grave. Grant that we will always remember that the joys of heaven do not consist of streets paved with gold but spending eternity with You, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

## Tuesday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Verse of the Day: Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.

**C** **Alleluia, Alleluia. Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.**

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord,           **C** **Have Mercy on us.**  
**L** O Christ,       **C** **Have Mercy on us.**  
**L** O Lord,           **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

**L** Let us pray: 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.

**C** **Amen.**

Once many years ago, we sang “They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love” right before my sermon on humility. The irony didn’t strike me until we sang the final line of the third stanza which says we will “save each man’s pride.”

Pride is a word that draws attention to the disconnect between our modern secular culture and people of faith. The Wikipedia article on pride begins, “Pride is a **positive** emotional response or attitude to something with an intimate connection to oneself, due to its perceived value.” Yet most of us have heard of The Seven Deadly Sins where pride often leads the list!

How did this change happen? The modern world views low self-esteem as the greatest problem rather than sin. Proper self-esteem is not sinful. However, sinful pride can be defined as exaggerated self-esteem. Sinful pride is the thought that one is better than everyone else. It ultimately leads to believing that humanity is better than God! For this reason, it generates a host of other sins.

Romans 12:3 gives us the proper corrective, “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”

Jesus understood humility, a commodity that is in short supply today. No better explanation can be found than the words of the Apostle Paul found in Philippians 1:1-11:

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Let us pray: 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.

## Wednesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day: Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia. **Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.**

## Psalm 4

- L** <sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!  
You have given me relief when I was in distress.  
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!
- C** <sup>2</sup>**O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?  
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?**
- L** <sup>3</sup>But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;  
the LORD hears when I call to him.
- C** <sup>4</sup>**Be angry, and do not sin;  
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.**

- L** <sup>5</sup>Offer right sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the LORD.
- C** <sup>6</sup>**There are many who say, “Who will show us some good?  
Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!”**
- L** <sup>7</sup>You have put more joy in my heart  
than they have when their grain and wine abound.
- C** <sup>8</sup>**In peace I will both lie down and sleep;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

## Kyrie

- L** O Lord,           **C** **Have Mercy on us.**
- L** O Christ,       **C** **Have Mercy on us.**
- L** O Lord,           **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

Wholesome and godly living has gone out of style. Every kind of immorality is celebrated in the media as being edgy and trendy. Foul and vulgar language is honored. Modesty is condemned as old fashioned.

God does not rejoice in our profane living. It leads to destruction.

His solution is a call to repentance. Jesus began His ministry with those words (Mark 1:15). Jesus came so that repentance would lead to forgiveness and eternal life.

God changes our sinful lives. He brings us into fellowship with Himself. He has set apart the godly to live with Him. He answers our prayers. In Jesus, He gives us gladness and joy for time and for all eternity.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for calling us out of the darkness of our culture into Your marvelous light. Grant us the grace to live wholesome and godly lives until we join You in eternity through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Thursday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day: Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.
- C** **Alleluia, Alleluia. Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.**

## Kyrie

- L** O Lord,           **C** **Have Mercy on us.**
- L** O Christ,       **C** **Have Mercy on us.**
- L** O Lord,           **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

## Acts 3:11–21

<sup>11</sup>While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s, astounded. <sup>12</sup>And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you denied the Holy and

Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,<sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.<sup>16</sup> And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

<sup>17c</sup>And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.<sup>18</sup> But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out,<sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,<sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

The beginning verses of Acts chapter 3 recount the story of Peter healing the lame beggar at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. When the beggar asked for money, Peter explained that he had none and in Jesus' name he directed the beggar to rise up and walk. The beggar responded by walking and leaping and praising God!

Unfortunately, this event often overshadows the words of Peter that follow. In this section, he tells the people exactly what Jesus had explained. God had foretold by the mouth of all the prophets that His Christ would suffer.

Peter's call to repentance is one that we all need to hear. We need to have our sins blotted out so that times of refreshment may come to us in the presence of the Lord. May our joy of being forgiven equal that of the beggar who went walking and leaping and praising God.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for the gift of salvation. Grant us true joy in your presence because of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Friday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day: Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

## 1 John 3:4–7

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

One advantage of teaching confirmation instruction year after year is hearing the same questions over and over. One of these recurring remarks is the thought that if God is so forgiving why can't I just go ahead and sin now and ask for God's forgiveness later?

There's an old song titled "Country Boy" that expresses this concept with these words, "I raise Cain on

Saturday But I go to church on Sunday.” This is nothing new. St. Paul had to deal with it, too. He writes in Romans 6:

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Or as John says in our epistle for this week, “No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.”

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for the gift of forgiveness and new life. Grant that I may never reject You by willful sinning. If I ever do, I pray that You would again turn my heart to true repentance, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

## Saturday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

### Gradual adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

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

### Verse of the Day: Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia. Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.

## Kyrie

- L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.
- L** O Christ,       **C** Have Mercy on us.
- L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.

### 1 John 3:1–3

<sup>1</sup>See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

It is a wonderful thing to be received into God’s family and adopted as His children (Ephesians 1:3-10). Because we are His children, He will raise us from the dead and we will live with Him for all eternity.

So what will our bodies be like when we are raised from the dead? They will be like Jesus’ glorified body. John tells us that “we shall be like Him.”

Exactly what that means, we will have to wait to see but Scripture reveals a few details to us. In our Gospel lesson from Luke this week, we learn that Jesus' body still has the marks of the crucifixion. It is a body that can be touched. He eats food.

In the verses before the Gospel for this week, Jesus is with the disciples in Emmaus. When they recognize Him, He vanishes from their sight (Luke 24:31). From this, we learn that His body is not bound by time or space.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, "So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. (Read the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 15 to learn more about the resurrection.)

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for welcoming us into Your family through faith in Jesus. Grant that we will never become discouraged as we look forward to the day when we will join Him in the resurrection through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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