

Home worship service for

The Third Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2022

The Easter Season

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

An Easter Salutation

adapted from 2 Timothy 1:10 & Psalm 118

L Christ is risen! Alleluia!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L Christ has destroyed death. Alleluia!

C And has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Alleluia!

L The Lord is my strength and my song. Alleluia!

C He has become my salvation. Alleluia!

L I will not die, but live. Alleluia!

C I will proclaim what the Lord has done. Alleluia!

L Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

C as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

L I will not die, but live. Alleluia!

C I will proclaim what the Lord has done. Alleluia!

L Christ is risen! Alleluia!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



- 1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" Saints on earth and an - gels say;
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Fought the fight, the bat - tle won;
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.
Lo! Our Sun's e - clipse is o'er; Lo! He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for - bids His rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?

- 5 Soar we now where Christ has led;
Foll'wing our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.
- 6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!
Thee we greet triumphant now:
Hail, the resurrection, Thou!

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

C Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 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. (*Psalm 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. (*Psalm 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 Psalm 145:4–7, 9; antiphon Psalm 145:10

- L** All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!
- C** One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
- L** On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- C** They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.
- L** They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- C** The Lord is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.
- 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** All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!

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 9:1–22

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him,

“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁵And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” ²¹And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

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 30

L ¹I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

C ²O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

L ³O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

C ⁴Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

L ⁵For 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 ⁶As for me, I said in my prosperity, “I shall never be moved.”

L ⁷By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

C ⁸To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

L ⁹“What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

C ¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”

L ¹¹You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

C ¹²that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Revelation 5:8–14

⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

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.

John 21:1–19

L The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 21st chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

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

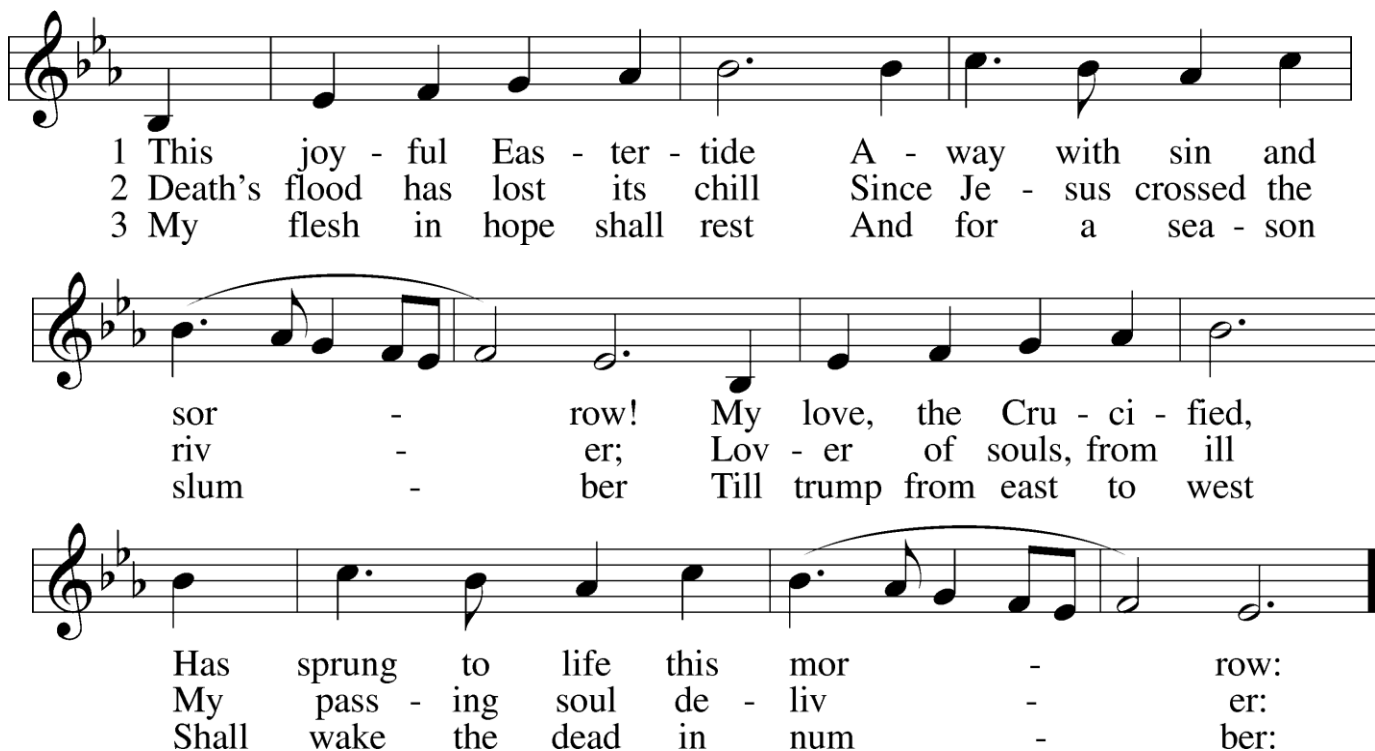
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the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

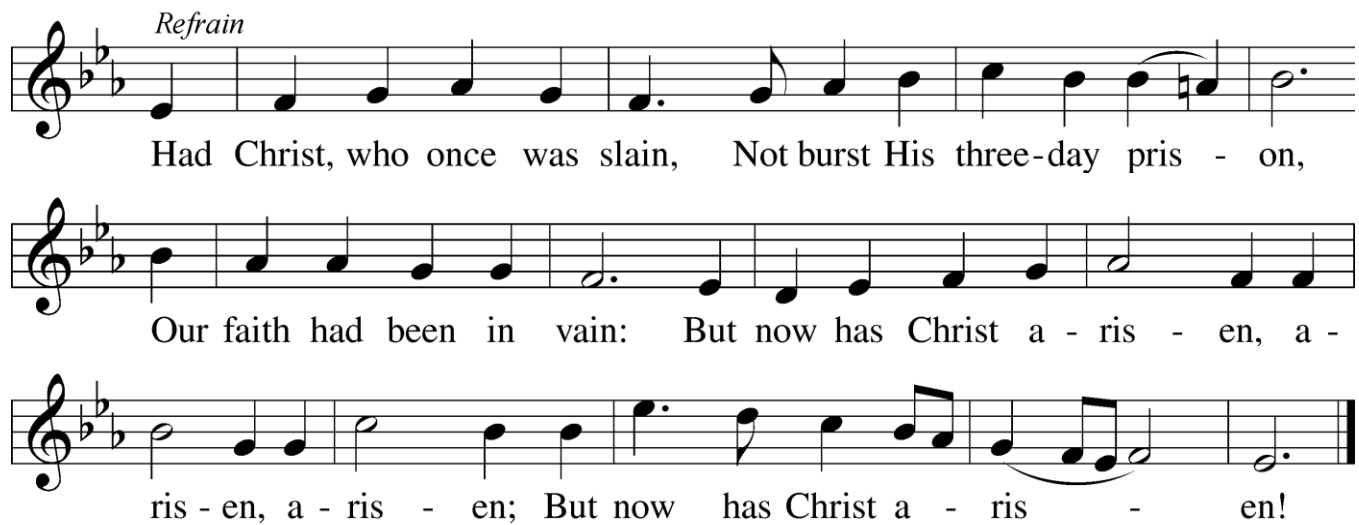
This Joyful Eastertide Lutheran Service Book 482, Lutheran Worship 140, The Lutheran Hymnal 2N/A08



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:



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Devotional thoughts:

By a surprising coincidence, one of my favorite fishing spots is about 100 yards offshore. I don't fish there because it's 100 yards offshore but because there is a drop-off there. Early in the morning and early in the evening, I know fish will be there. Many times while peacefully sitting in the boat, someone will come down to the shore and shout, "Did you catch anything?" Hopefully, the answer is "Yes." If I've had a particularly good catch, I'll hold them up. This image came to mind as I read our Gospel lesson from the last chapter of John and the last appearance of Jesus recorded by John.

This chapter begins with these words, "After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias." This might make you ask, "After what?" If you are familiar with the Gospel of John, you will remember that the previous chapter reports the events surrounding Jesus' resurrection and it ends with our Gospel lesson for last week. You will recall Thomas' great confession of faith in Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" And to this Jesus answered, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now sometime later, the disciples have made their way back to Galilee as they were instructed on Easter morning (Matthew 28:10). John tells us that seven disciples decided to go fishing on the Sea of Tiberias. John is the only one of the Gospels that refers to the Sea of Galilee as the Sea of Tiberias. Tiberius Caesar ruled the Roman Empire following Caesar Augustus. Luke tells us that John the Baptist began his ministry "in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar" (Luke 3:1). To this day, the largest city on the lake is named Tiberias. The fact that John uses this term for the Sea of Galilee is a hint that he expects his Gospel to be used by the non-Jewish culture of the Roman Empire.

There is another curious detail in our Gospel lesson. John says that in the boat with the disciples is Nathanael of Cana in Galilee. In the other Gospels, Nathaniel goes by the name Bartholomew. He was one of the first disciples called by Jesus (John 1:43-51). Here, he is a witness to Jesus' last miracle and he comes from the town of Jesus' first miracle where He turned water into wine at the wedding of Cana.

Now, after a night of fishing, their nets were completely empty. In all likelihood, they were fishing less than two miles southwest of Capernaum near a place known today as Tabgha. There are seven springs there that flow into the Sea of Galilee. Through experience, the disciples knew that because of these springs there was a good fishing spot about 100 yards offshore.

In my mind, I can picture the scene. The sun is just coming up over the eastern shore. The lake is still. A mist is rising from the water. Maybe a rooster is crowing in the distance. It's going to be a wonderful spring day. On the shore, about 100 yards away is a large rock that can still be seen today. On top of that rock stands a solitary figure. Across the calm waters, they clearly hear Him ask, "Do you have any fish?"

They should have had a load of fish to take to the market. This spot had never let them down before. But now they must honestly answer, "No!" A voice came back from the stranger onshore, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some."

There was another time when the disciples had been fishing all night with nothing to show for it (Luke 5:4). Jesus asked them to put out their boats and let down their nets. They caught such a large number of fish that their nets were breaking! That was at the beginning of their time with Jesus. Now it would happen again. They caught so many fish that they were not able to haul them in.

John immediately understood that the man standing on the shore was Jesus. He told Peter, "It is the Lord!" Without giving it a second thought, Peter jumped into the water and stroked 100 yards to shore!

As soon as they could, the other fishermen dragged the net to the beach. When the fish were all counted, Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." But the most amazing thing was yet to come.

When breakfast was over, Jesus turned to Peter and asked, "Do you love me more than these?" This is Peter who said of Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). This is Peter who said, "Lord, I will lay down my life for you" (John 13:37). This is Peter who said, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away" (Matthew 26:33). Why would Jesus ask him this question?

Jesus asked this question because this is Peter who denied Jesus when a servant girl asked him if he was Jesus' disciple (Matthew 26:69). This is Peter who denied Jesus to a second servant girl and a third time to a bystander who recognized his accent. This is Peter who cursed in his denial of Jesus!

Now in grace, Jesus opened the door for Peter to confess his love for Jesus three times. His response was one that we all want to make, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." The third time, Peter included this wonderful confession of faith, "Lord, you know everything!"

In this way, Jesus confirmed that Peter was welcomed back into the company of the Apostles. Soon Jesus would ascend into heaven and Peter would have a mission to complete. He was given the charge to feed and tend the lambs for whom Jesus' died.

Today, we learned about the third time Jesus revealed Himself as the risen Lord to His disciples. When was the first time Jesus revealed Himself to you? Maybe it was in your baptism. Maybe He first revealed Himself to you in His word of sin and grace. However it happened, He has made you part of His flock.

Have you strayed like Peter? Have you denied your Savior? All is not lost. Just Jesus welcomed Peter back into the flock, He is there to welcome each one of us back when we stray.

Our love may not be strong. Our faith may be weak but we are among those who know the risen Savior and live under His cross. He continues to reveal Himself to us today through word and sacrament. He forgives our sins and strengthens our faith when we come to Him. He feeds us, not with loaves and fish, but with His holy precious body and blood. He will never leave you or forsake you. He is with you always to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus has ascended into heaven. Peter and the Apostles are gone. But Jesus' sheep still need to be tended and fed. He charges each of us with this task. Little children still need to learn, "Jesus loves me. This I know for the Bible tells me so." The brokenhearted still need His words of comfort and grace. Confirmants still need to be taught all that He has commanded us (Matthew 28:20).

You take up the charge given to Peter when you speak God's word of salvation to people around you. You take up the charge given to Peter when you support the work of the Church. You take up the charge given to Peter when you have family prayers and devotions. You take up the charge given to Peter when you bear one another's burdens,

May we in all we say and do echo the words of Peter, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

"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).

L O Lord, each of us has, like Peter and Paul, denied and persecuted You by our failure to keep Your holy law. As You called Peter and Paul back into Your family of grace, grant us true repentance and forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

C Amen.

L O Lord, grant us faith to join with the myriads of angels in saying with loud voices, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" May we be counted among every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, in saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" Let us always give our whole-hearted "Amen" to these sincere words of praise.

C Amen.

L Almighty God, govern the kingdoms of this world according to Your holy and gracious will. Protect those in harm's way because of the war in Ukraine that continues to cause innocent men, women, and children to suffer. Curb what is evil and promote what is good among us wherever we live in this fallen world.

C Amen.

L Almighty God, send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. We thank You for the protection granted to all who have attended to our needs during this pandemic. Thank You that we are experiencing a continuing decline in the number of new infections and an ease of restrictions. Continue to strengthen all those who serve us in the medical field. Give Your comfort and peace to all who are suffering from this illness or others. Be with those who mourn. Grant to them the hope and assurance of a blessed reunion in heaven.

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



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 Third Sunday of Easter

May 2 – May 7, 2022

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 meditate 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.

Introit Psalm 145:4–7, 9; antiphon Psalm 145:10

- L** All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!
- C** One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
- L** On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- C** They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.
- L** They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- C** The Lord is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.
- 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** All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!

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. |

Psalm 145 is titled, “A Song of Praise.” It is the only psalm with this title. But surprisingly, the Hebrew name for the Book of Psalms is derived from this title. In Hebrew, the Book of Psalms is known as “Praises” (Tehillim). Psalm 145 is an appropriate psalm for our introit during this Easter season. For what better reason is there to praise God than for the salvation that is ours through the death and resurrection of Jesus?

All of God’s people (people made saints by the cross of Christ) give thanks and bless God for His most wonderful work of all. We give thanks and bless God for the gift of His only-begotten Son who gave Himself for the life of the world! Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and His empty tomb are the most awesome deeds in all of history.

This is the greatest news that one generation can pass on to the next generation. The so-called health and prosperity gospel cannot come close to the gift of eternal life promised to us in the real Gospel of the Bible. Easter is the special time of year to sing aloud God’s praises for this unimaginable gift of grace that given to us by Jesus. May our Easter songs of praise echo throughout the entire year.

- L** Let us pray. Lord, we praise You for Your wondrous works. Send us Your Holy Spirit so that we are moved to meditate on Jesus’ sacrifice for sinners and the gift of eternal life that we celebrate during this Easter season and always. Amen.

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

G 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.

G 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.

Psalms 30

L ¹I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

G ²O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

- L** ³O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
- C** ⁴**Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.**
- L** ⁵For 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** ⁶**As for me, I said in my prosperity, “I shall never be moved.”**
- L** ⁷By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.
- C** ⁸**To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:**
- L** ⁹“What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?
- C** ¹⁰**Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”**
- L** ¹¹You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,
- C** ¹²**that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.**
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

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. |

Walter Roehrs writes about Psalm 30:6-10 in *Concordia Self-Study Commentary*, “Adversity, God’s antibiotic against pride and self-sufficiency, produced the cure.” David was guilty of trusting his military might rather than God (2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21). God’s judgment against Israel brought David to his senses so that he returned to God and cried out, “O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!” (Psalm 30:10).

In the last few years, I have taken note of Walther Roehrs’ insights and uncovered many such gems. I’ve never thought of adversity as an antibiotic against pride and self-sufficiency before but I don’t think I’ll ever forget it now.

Most of us think of prosperity and prestige as great blessings. However, they become curses when they pull us away from our dependency upon God. In fact, prosperity, power, and prestige can become the focus of idolatry. Even Christians in our society seem to worship at the altar of mega this and mega that. We are often willing to compromise the truth of God’s pure word in pursuit of success and numbers. Like David, many of us have come to believe in numbers and statistical strength rather than God.

Sometimes our heavenly Father must allow adversity into our lives in order to burst the bubble of sinful pride and idolatrous self-sufficiency. When I am flat on my back, I am forced to look to heaven and cry out, “O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”

Then God hears our prayers. He forgives our sins for Jesus’ sake and turns our mourning into dancing and clothes us with gladness. When we no longer trust in ourselves, joy and happiness return to our lives. We sing God’s praise and give thanks to Him forever.

Prayer: O Lord, let us never trust in ourselves when we should trust in You. When You allow adversity into our lives, may it move us to fix our eyes on Jesus and return to Him. 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 9:1–22

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁵And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” ²¹And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

The Apostle Paul must have thought of these dramatic events in his life almost every day. His encounter with Jesus was so significant and defining for Him that it is actually recorded three times in the Book of Acts (Acts 9, 22, & 26). It certainly influenced his deep love for and understanding of grace. In fact, Paul mentions grace 81 times in his epistles! Here are just four of them for you to consider.

Paul is most insistent on speaking about grace in his letter to the Romans. Here he mentions it 18 times. It’s hard to choose just one to reflect on. Here is my choice. Romans 3:22b-24 says, “For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

When Paul lived as a dedicated Pharisee, there may have been times when he believed that he wasn't a sinner. After his experience on the road to Damascus, that all changed. Now he knows that he had been deceiving himself by believing that he had no need for God's grace.

To the Corinthians, Paul writes, “⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me” (1 Corinthians 15:9-10).

Paul remembered that not only was he an unbeliever but he was an “anti-believer!” He wanted to destroy the Church. But by the grace of God, he became the great messenger of the Gospel and preacher of grace. Because he understood what God's grace meant for him in his life, he was able to proclaim it clearly to people of his day and to every generation of believers.

To keep Paul from believing that he didn't need God, he was given a thorn in the flesh. After he prayed three times for healing, God gave him this answer. “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Paul then says, “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Let's conclude with what might be Paul's most well-known grace passage. “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus proved that Paul had no grounds for boasting. He hadn't decided to follow Jesus. He had decided to persecute Jesus! But God in His grace reached down from heaven and made Paul a great apostle to the gentiles. He hadn't chosen Jesus but Jesus chose him!

We rejoice that we are saved by grace through faith for Christ's sake. Our salvation doesn't depend on our personal decision because even faith is a gift from God. Paul understood this. It gave him great comfort and confidence.

May the depth of God's grace fill us with humility. May we never boast in our personal commitment to Jesus. “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for Your gift of grace. Grant that we would share with the Apostle Paul in his understanding of grace. 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.

Revelation 5:1–14

¹Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

There is a longer and shorter reading appointed for the Epistle lesson this week. The longer reading includes the entire chapter of Revelation that we just read. The symbolism of Revelation is rich and complex. Reading this chapter from the beginning helps us to grasp the significance of this vision.

Chapter 5 is all about Jesus, the only truly worthy one. Everyone else is unworthy. He is described in verse 5 as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David. Both of these are Old Testament designations for the Messiah who was to come.

In verse 6, we discover that the Lion of the tribe of Judah can also be described as a lamb. While there are many other symbols to discuss, let us stick to these few.

Jesus is “The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Now we see Him on the other side of His sacrifice. He lives although He had once been slain! By His blood, He ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. He made them a kingdom and priests to our God!

This work of salvation for us on the cross makes Him worthy to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! Every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, says, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” You and I must count ourselves among them. We have received the benefit of Jesus’ work on the cross. May we also join in with our amen and worship Jesus.

O God of God, O Light of Light

Lutheran Service Book 810, Lutheran Worship 83, The Lutheran Hymnal 132



1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and
2 For deep in proph-ets' sa-cred page, And grand in po-ets'
3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in
4 Then raise to Christ a might-y song, And shout His name, His



King of kings: To You in heav-en's glo-ry bright The song of
wing-ed word, Slow-ly in type, from age to age The na-tions
hate and scorn— These all are past, and now a-bove He reigns, our
mer-cies tell! Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on



praise for-ev-er rings. To Him who sits up-on the throne,
saw their com-ing Lord; Till through the deep Ju-de-an night
King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O might-y gates!
earth, your an-them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin-ners slain!



The Lamb once slain but raised a-gain, Be all the glo-ry
Rang out the song, "Good-will to men!" Sung once by first-born
So sang that host be-yond our ken. Lift up your heads, your
For-ev-er let the song as-cend! Wor-thy the Lamb, en-



He has won, All thanks and praise! A-men, a-men.
sons of light, It ech-oes now, "Good-will!" A-men.
King a-waits. We lift them up. A-men, a-men.
throned to reign, All glo-ry, pow'r! A-men, a-men.

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Saturday

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

C Amen.

Introit Psalm 145:4–7, 9; antiphon Psalm 145:10

- L** All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!
- C** **One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.**
- L** On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- C** **They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.**
- L** They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- C** **The Lord is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.**
- 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** All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!

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.**

Let's revisit the introit today, especially Psalm 145:4, "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." My motivation for doing this came from reading this statement, "Don't force your children into religion. Explain the differences and let them choose between tubes and transistors."

On one hand, I found that quite humorous. Electronics has been one of my hobbies since high school. For the last couple of decades, I've been particularly interested in vacuum tube radios. I have noticed that some vacuum tube enthusiasts do sometimes treat their hobby with a passion generally reserved for religion.

On the other hand, this statement makes me sad. There are too many people who subscribe to the first part and refuse to teach their children about Jesus and His love for them.

When we don't teach our religion to our children, we, in fact, do teach our children that religion is unimportant. There really is no such thing as being neutral about religion. You are either for it or against it.

No one would fail to teach children the difference between nutritious food and poison. No one would refuse to speak to their children until they were old enough to choose their own language.

Passing on our faith to our children is the highest task of parenthood. If parents take seriously their task of preparing their children for life, how much more important is it for them to prepare their children for eternal life through faith in our savior?

As we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day, thank God for Christian mothers who listened to God's word by commending His wonderful works to the next generation. If God has placed children in your care, tell them about Jesus' love and the salvation that He won for them on the cross.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for the gift of parents who teach their children about Your wonderful works. Give Christian mothers and fathers the wisdom to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Amen.

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