

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD—EASTER DAY

Easter Imperatives: Go!

April 12, 2020

As We Gather

The spring of souls. The queen of seasons. The royal feast of feasts. With those colorful phrases the ancient writer John of Damascus, who lived in the eighth century, described Easter Day in a classic hymn text. The Feast of the Resurrection and its importance is difficult to put into words. Everything has been done: Christ has come and has established His kingdom in the world for the sake of the resurrection and the life to come. His saving work is accomplished—and we are the beneficiaries! The action word “go” is central for us this day, as we go in to meet our Lord in worship and go out to share the message of the empty tomb and of the risen Christ, our Lord!

+ PREPARATION +

Hymn “*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*” LSB 457

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris’n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav’nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
- 3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He’s king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav’nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

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Invocation

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

Opening Sentences *Psalm 118:24; Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6, adapted*

- P This is the day that the Lord has made;
C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- P Christ has risen from the dead. Alleluia!
C **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,**
- P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
C **He has put all things under His feet. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Confession and Absolution

- P Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking His mercy and forgiveness.
O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have

- sinned against You in thought and in word and in deed.
- C **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**
- P We confess that we have not lived as Your followers but have sought to go our own ways in directions that have not brought glory to You or blessing to others.
- C **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**
- P We confess that Your love has not reached others through us in every situation, that there have been times in which we have been loveless, thoughtless, and judgmental toward others, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.
- C **Have mercy on us and forgive us, Lord.**
- P We confess that Your will has not been our priority at all times and that we have not always been defenders of the weak and helpless in our circle of family, neighbors, and friends and beyond.
- C **Have mercy on us and forgive us, Lord.**
- P We confess that we have not used every opportunity given to us to witness to the resurrection faith that is ours and have at times been slow to speak of the hope that is ours in Christ.
- C **Have mercy on us and forgive us, Lord.**
- P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in T peace.
- C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

Kyrie *LSB 152*

- A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C **Amen.**

Hymn “*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing*” *LSB 475*

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of life is ris’n this day;
Bring flow’rs of song to strew His way;
Let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory
That love, that life which cannot die,

And sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Grant that we who have been raised with Him may abide in His presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading Acts 10:34–43

³⁴So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 31:1–6

¹“At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people.”

²Thus says the LORD:

“The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;
when Israel sought for rest,

³the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴Again I will build you, and you shall be built,
O virgin Israel!

Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines
and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

⁵Again you shall plant vineyards
on the mountains of Samaria;

the planters shall plant
and shall enjoy the fruit.
⁶For there shall be a day when watchmen will call
in the hill country of Ephraim:
‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion,
to the LORD our God.’”

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *Psalm 16*

C **Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.**

! *I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You.” As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.*

@ *The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.*

C **The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.**

! *The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.*

@ *I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.*

C **For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let Your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

**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.**

Epistle *Colossians 3:1–4*

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse2 *Tim. 1:10b*

C **Alleluia. [Christ Jesus] abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel *Matthew 28:1–10*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended

from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." ⁸So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn "*Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*" LSB 487

- 1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain
 Of triumphant gladness!
 God has brought His Israel
 Into joy from sadness,
 Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
 Jacob's sons and daughters,
 Led them with unmoistened foot
 Through the Red Sea waters.

- 2 'Tis the spring of souls today:
 Christ has burst His prison
 And from three days' sleep in death
 As a sun has risen;
 All the winter of our sins,
 Long and dark, is flying
 From His light, to whom is giv'n
 Laud and praise undying.

- 3 Now the queen of seasons, bright
 With the day of splendor,
 With the royal feast of feasts
 Comes its joy to render;
 Comes to gladden faithful hearts
 Which with true affection
 Welcome in unwearied strain
 Jesus' resurrection!

- 4 For today among His own
 Christ appeared, bestowing
 His deep peace, which evermore
 Passes human knowing.
 Neither could the gates of death
 Nor the tomb's dark portal
 Nor the watchers nor the seal
 Hold Him as a mortal.

- 5 Alleluia! Now we cry
 To our King immortal,
 Who, triumphant, burst the bars
 Of the tomb's dark portal.

Come, you faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel
Into joy from sadness!

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Sermon *Based on Colossians 3:1-4*

Title:
“The Year We Missed Easter”

Introduction:

I am standing here about to preach an Easter message. The church is empty except for Cecil who is videoing the message. And John who just finished recording for us a number of Easter pieces. I pray that you enjoy both the music and the message.

Now, understand this. To stand before an empty church on Easter morning is a nightmare for pastors. The idea that no one showed up for worship on Easter haunts us. What if no one remembered it was Easter? What if Easter didn't happen? What if no one thought about Easter?

Well for many of us, it wouldn't be any different than any other day. We either have our minds set on the things of the world or on things above.

I. When our minds are set on the things of the world

Our daily lives fill our minds day in and day out. There is the seeking after daily bread which is now more of a challenge than most of us can remember. There is the love and care of family and friends which are blessings from God. Our daily work and chores which are also a blessing from God all contribute to the “rat race” we call life.

Now because of the coronavirus pandemic, the “rat race” may have eased. In place of it, boredom, time with family, toning up our social media skills, and catching up with projects around the house. All these things keep our minds on the things of the world and tempt us to forget Easter, or more importantly the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are tempted and distracted daily from thinking about the resurrection of Jesus. We are constantly tempted and often do fall into thinking, speaking and acting as if Jesus didn't rise from the dead. Our lives can reflect this.

When we become afraid of death, we are forgetting Christ has conquered death. For a moment, we feel as if Christ hasn't risen. Pray that it is a fleeting moment. But as in this day, death will be on our minds. We have isolated ourselves so that this virus cannot do it worst. Death is real. And if we do not continually recall the victory Jesus won for us when He rose from the dead, the thought of death will overwhelm us. This we confess to God and call upon His forgiveness to strengthen us in the face of death.

We daily are tempted to forget Jesus was raised from the dead and secured for us the forgiveness of sin. We show that we have forgotten this great and most important gift in our lives. We go our merry way forgetting to seek God's forgiveness daily. He offers us His risen body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar for the remission of sin and we say, “I have other things to do.”

This pandemic may have brought to our minds a better priority in life. All these things we do day in and day out can be taken away from us, even our very lives. None of the things that have distracted us from the grace of God can save our lives. Christ's death and resurrection is what saves us. We confess that our priorities have interfered with the grace of God. We confess that the means of grace have not been a priority in our lives. We call on God's mercy and grace to forgive us and strengthen us to keep as our highest priority the salvation of our

souls.

II. When our minds are set on the things that are above

When we go to Christ confessing our sins and seeking His forgiveness, our minds are being shifted to think about the things that are above. It puts our minds onto Christ who is seated at the right of the Father. It puts our minds and our hearts on to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the blessing it is to have Him in our lives.

Keeping our attention on the things above does not blind us to what is happening here on earth. It is not to be seen as a way to avoid thinking about what is happening to our neighbor, our family and to us. It is not denying the dangers and the sinful condition of this world.

Looking to the things that are above, that is, Christ Jesus sitting at the right hand of the Father, helps us face the day and all that it brings. It helps to face the day with boldness and courage knowing that Christ is in control. He is greater and more powerful than any evil this world may throw at us. For, He conquered the final enemy, death. He rose from the dead. The grave could not hold Him. He left the tomb empty. And so shall we.

The courage that we need because we are fearful creatures comes from the forgiveness of sin. This forgiveness reassures us that if anything should happen to us we will in the next moment see our Savior face to face. We will be delivered to His visible presence where there will be no sickness or death, no tears or sorrow, no more fears with which to struggle. We will be safe for all eternity.

With this forgiveness comes the assurance God is with us, so that we confidently trust God to care for us. He has given us wisdom. He has given us caring family and friends. He has given us government to protect us. We can listen to their advice and follow their judgements knowing that our God is watching over us. He will protect us. He will lead us through the valley of death. He will even work our illnesses to our good and the good of others who love Him and keep His commandments.

He even leads us to remember the first Easter so that we do go to Him for the forgiveness of sin and the strengthening of our faith in Christ that He has saved us.

Conclusion:

God has not created a nightmare for us. He has not forgotten Jesus rose from the dead. He has not forgotten us. He may be getting our attention. He may allow us to miss out on Easter this year only so that we do not forget the resurrection of Jesus Christ for all eternity.

God bless and keep you all safe and well.

+ AMEN +

Nicene Creed

**C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life T of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

That the Church would live out its calling and that the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ be joyfully celebrated in all places, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the nations of the world find peace with justice in our time, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the abiding blessing of God rest upon our families, our neighborhoods, our places of business, and our schools, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That those whose confession of the true faith leads to bodily peril or other sufferings know relief and deliverance from every danger, let us pray of the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That all whose labor adds meaning and beauty to the life of the Church—the musicians, artists, craft workers, flower arrangers, and others—find joy and blessing in all that they do to the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That all those whose lives know specific challenges, including those who are ill and those who mourn, [*including . . .*], know heavenly benediction and strength for each day, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the memory of the faithful departed be held in reverence and honor by all of us as we await a time of resurrection and reunion at the close of the age, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P These things and all else that we should have asked on this day of holy rejoicing, grant to us, Lord, for the sake of our risen Savior Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Offering Hymn “*Gracious God, You Send Great Blessing*” LSB 782

- 1 Gracious God, You send great blessings
 New each morning all our days.
 For Your mercies never ending,
 For Your love we offer praise. Refrain
- ref Lord, we pray that we, Your people
 Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
 Through the sharing of Your blessings
 May bring glory to Your name.
- 2 By Your Word You formed creation
 Filled with creatures large and small;
 As we tend that endless treasure
 May our care encircle all. Refrain
- 3 In His earthly life, our Savior
 Knew the care of faithful friends;
 May our deeds of dedication
 Offer love that never ends. Refrain
- 4 Heav’nly Father, may our caring
 Bear the imprint of Your grace;
 With the Son and Holy Spirit,
 Praise be Yours in ev’ry place! Refrain

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Hymn “*He Is Arisen! Glorious Word*” LSB 488

- 1 He is arisen! Glorious Word!
 Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
 The gates of heav’n are open.
 My Jesus did triumphant die,
 And Satan’s arrows broken lie,
 Destroyed hell’s fiercest weapon.
 O hear what cheer!
 Christ victorious,
 Rising glorious,
 Life is giving.
 He was dead but now is living!

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Lord's Prayer

- 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.**

Hymn *"Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" LSB 434*

- 1 Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!
- 2 Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!
- 3 Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

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Hymn *"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" LSB 461*

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.
- 3 He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.
- 4 He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;

He lives all blessings to impart.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

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Hymn "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" LSB 469

1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"
Saints on earth and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.

2 Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! Our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids His rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

4 Lives again our glorious King!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save;
Where thy victory, 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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Hymn "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" LSB 474

1 Alleluia!
Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb,

Heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! Refrain

ref Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2 Walking the way,
Christ in the center
Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread,
Giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain

3 Jesus the vine,
We are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth,
Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain

4 Weeping, be gone;
Sorrow, be silent:
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing:
“O grave, be open!”
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. Refrain

5 City of God,
Easter forever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life,
Saints and archangels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain

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Hymn “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness” LSB 467

1 Awake, my heart, with gladness,
See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness,
Comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid
Where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light
Our spirit wings its flight.

2 The foe in triumph shouted
When Christ lay in the tomb;
But lo, he now is routed,
His boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free;
In glorious victory
He who is strong to save
Has triumphed o’er the grave.

3 This is a sight that gladdens—

What peace it doth impart!
Now nothing ever saddens
The joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake,
No foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son
In love for me has won.

4 Now hell, its prince, the devil,
Of all their pow'r are shorn;
Now I am safe from evil,
And sin I laugh to scorn.
Grim death with all its might
Cannot my soul affright;
It is a pow'rless form,
Howe'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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Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
C **Amen.**

Hymn "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia" LSB 463

1 Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!

Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

3 Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

4 Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

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E-mail: Trinitychurch@ctitech.com

Announcements & Calendars can be found @ our Web Site: www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org

Pastor: Rev. Rodney Blomquist (217) 824-4705

Trinity Lutheran Preschool: (217) 824-8148

Trinity Lutheran ChildCare*PLUS*: (217) 287-2229

childcareplus@ctitech.com

Worship:

Saturday: 6:15 p.m.

Sunday: 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (*Located in the church basement*)

Sunday Morning Fellowship: 10:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Class: 10:45 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.;

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; (12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Lunch)

Friday, 9 a.m. – Noon

“SHARING WITH OUR FAMILY IN CHRIST”

April 11& 12, 2020

+WORSHIP+

► **CONGRATULATIONS TO:** Abby Norris on her Confirmation on Sunday, April 5, 2020

► **BACK AT HOME** – Marie Fouts

THOSE WITH ONGOING HEALTH CONCERNS: Mike Seeley; Bonnie Hornbeck; Bill & Sharon Matthews; Lyle Reller, Paul Hartig, and Teresa Burdick

NON-MEMBER CONCERNS: Prayers for Rocky Moore, by his friends that work at the city departments; Prayers for Julie Eson, has issues with chronic vertigo by April; A friend of Debbie Prehn – Chuck Hendricks; Darla Gatton (stroke) prayers have been asked for her; Denis Corso’s sister, Brenda, Barb Beck’s brother-in-law’s sister; Patti Esswein’s daughter; Norvella Arkebauer’s mother; Those suffering from natural and manmade disasters, especially friends and family members of our congregation; Regina Wilderman; Chris Owens, a stroke; Lillian Reller’s nephew, Lonnie, with health concerns; Barb Beck’s brother, Gary; Bill Schroyer; Lyle & Lillian’s grandson, Londyn Kleimola- daughter of Leroy & Christy Kleimola and Donna Lucas –friend of the Matthews.

MILITARY MEMBERS: Marjorie Evans; Justin & Jared Misiorek; Andy Noblet; Richie Holmes, Brandon Mills; Peter Knope II, Shawn Durbin; Clayton Hays; and Andrew Soulsby

MILITARY PERSONNEL CONNECTED TO OUR WORSHIPPING FAMILY: Nephews of Pastor & Tammy Blomquist; Lyle & Lillian Reller’s 3 grandsons (Kyle, Josh, and Jake; Patti Esswein’s sons, Gene & Billy Esswein; Ken Gatton’s grandson, Josh; Barb McMahon’s son, Peter Koepp; Joshua, the husband of Annie Plant; Lyle & Lillian Reller’s grandsons (Drake and Blake; Cory Bonacorsi – grandsons of Ella & Julius; and Natalie Durbin, wife of Shawn Durbin;

CARDS AND NOTES FROM HOME NEEDED FOR New Address–Peter Knope, 1376 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601-4541; Brandon Mills, PSC 94 Box 2416, APO AE 09824 and J.T & Marjorie Evans, 24847 Sanford Corners Road, Calcium, NY 13616-2258; Josh & Annie Plant, 13180 East Mesquite Flat Spring Drive, Vail, AZ 85641-2503; If your son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter is in the service and would like to hear from us, submit their addresses to the Church.

THOSE LIVING OR CONVALESCING IN LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES OR AT HOME: Taylorville Skill Nursing and Rehab (*Meadow Manor*): Marie Fouts; Taylorville Care: Bonnie Hornbeck, & Carrie Rhodes; Nokomis Rehabilitation & Health Care: Roberta Trelz; Springfield Mill Creek Alzheimer’s Special Care Center: Lou Silotto; Eastview Terrace, Sullivan: Rose Marie Smith; at their homes: Eilene Everlen, Jim & Margaret Muir

LEARN/REVIEW the teachings of the Bible by attending the Adult Confirmation Class. Just let Pastor know if you wish to attend.

► **LISTEN TO WORLDWIDE KFUE Radio**, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUE.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfue.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUEradio on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kfue), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/kfue), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kfue).

This week on KFUE.org, we wish everyone a blessed Easter. We begin a new series “The Righteousness of God for You” studying the book of Romans on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), continue studying the book of

Revelation on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and worship with us in Daily Chapel at 10:00 a.m. CT. Find programs on demand at kfuo.org!

LISTEN TO THE LUTHERAN HOUR

WTIM 96.1 FM or 870 am Sunday mornings @ 7:30 a.m.

(If you wish to support the broadcast of the Lutheran Hour on our local radio station, you can write out a check to Trinity Lutheran Church and on the memo line write: "Lutheran Hour on WTIM." It costs \$30.00 a week. You can place the check in the offering plate or drop it off at the office during the week.)

WLUI 89.7 or 100.1 FM Sunday afternoons @ 1 p.m.

(Funds are needed to continue the support of this broadcast on WLUI. If you can contribute to this ministry, send your donations to Rev. Rich Harre, 5258 Golf Club Drive, Auburn, Illinois 62615)

WATCH LUTHERAN MINISTRIES – "Worship Anew" on Television channel 49, Sunday Mornings @ 7:30 a.m.

LISTEN TO LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO at <http://lutheranpublicradio.org/iphone/>

GO TO cidlcms.org and check out *The GatePost*. There is a special addition for Holy Week including something for the children

► CID FACEBOOK PAGE

Good Afternoon All!

We are excited to share with you that the CID Facebook page has officially launched! Please "like" the page if you are on Facebook and share with your congregations! We currently have Holy Week devotions going up twice per day but are excited about other content we will be bringing to you in the coming weeks!

https://www.facebook.com/cidlcms/?modal=admin_todo_tour

In His Hands,

Amy Holmes

Office Assistant

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► WITNESS AND OUTREACH *Easter*

Matthew 28:1-10: When Mary Magdalene saw her risen Lord, she went with great excitement to tell the disciples that she had seen the Lord and shared with them what Jesus had told her. We have seen our Risen Lord by faith and that sure faith inspires us to share with others the hope we have because Jesus lives! Celebrate the victory over Satan, death and the grave by telling someone else that Easter matters: it matters to you and it matters to them.

Without Easter, they have no answer to the problem of sin and death. But with Jesus, a Savior who lives, there is joy and victory in the face of sin and death. Because Jesus lives, those who believe in Him live now and for eternity. Easter makes all the difference in this world and the next; to keep this message to yourself would be a tragedy. We have seen the Lord. He lives. What joy! What triumph! And it's all yours. Not to keep to yourself - but to share and share and share!

bones. God has given you a Word of resurrection to share with them, both in this life and for the next. Jesus is the I AM. He is a personal God. He is the Resurrection and the Life. May God send you to someone with this Word to be a breath of resurrection Good News.

► LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR –Resurrection of Our Lord – Jesus' bodily resurrection (Matthew 28:9) reveals as much about us as it does about God. What great majesty and honor the Almighty Maker hides (Colossians 3:3) in human flesh! And if He places such worth in a body broken by crucifixion, if He works

such purpose in the rotting confines of a tomb, how much more can—will He!—do so in surprise pregnancy and in terminal diagnosis!

TORNADO RECOVERY CONTINUES - Volunteers are still needed especially semi & skilled laborers for roofing, plumbing and other types of repairs. Contact Lloyd Hoover 825-7159
Donations can be made payable to: “Missions for Taylorville” and mailed or delivered to: Taylorville City Clerk, 115 North Main, Taylorville, Illinois 62568.

HOW TO HELP THROUGH LCMS WORLD RELIEFE AND HUMAN CARE

Give to Disaster Relief: Text **LCMSDISASTERS** to 41444 , [Give to hurricane relief](#), [Give to flood relief](#)
[Give to tornado relief](#), [Give to wildfire relief](#), [Thrivent matching gift opportunity](#)

Call 888-930-4438 To make a credit card gift by phone, call the LCMS toll-free donor care line between 8 a.m. and 4:10 p.m. Central time.

Mail On the memo line or enclosed note, please indicate how you would like your gift to be used. (Disaster Response – where needed most, wildfire relief, hurricane relief, etc.) **Make check payable and mail to:**
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

CHARITY/MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL: *Trinity Needs Fund (These funds help and assist fellow church members and other in time of need.)*

► **OFFERINGS: April 4 & 5, 2020: No Church Services**

Weekly Budget Needs: \$3,605.80
January Income: \$22,542.62
January Expense: \$22,421.16
Year to date receipts thru January: \$22,542.62
Year to date expense thru January: \$22,421.16
Difference between Yearly Income and Yearly Expense: \$121.46

If you do not have a box of envelopes and wish to use envelopes this year, contact pastor or write, “Envelopes Please,” by your name in the “Ritual of Friendship” register located at the end of the pews. You may mail your offering to , drop off at or bring it when we gather again at the church.)

PRESCHOOL NEWS – We have openings in the 3 yr. old & 4 yr. old class for the 2020-2021 school year. Registration forms are available in the church office or online @trinitylutherantaylorville.org. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 217-824-8148. TIMES March 2020 Newsletter is posted on the bulletin board.

► **MID-WEEK STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT**

He Is Risen!

The women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body. Confused and distressed at finding an empty tomb, they were further bewildered to hear the words of “a young man dressed in a white robe. . . [Jesus] has risen! He is not here . . . Go, tell His disciples and Peter . . .” (Mark 16:5-7). Easter is the celebration of the Empty Tomb. Every Sunday we are reminded, “Go, tell!” Like the women, we may be “trembling and bewildered” (Mark 16:8), but, we, too, are emboldened by God’s Spirit to carry out His command. Go tell. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

John 20:16 – “Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’” Jesus is not only risen from the dead and the Victor over sin, He even calls us by name. He still calls us His friends and brothers, and He means to bring us through death to join Him in His resurrection. Christ is risen; He is risen indeed!

Prayer: Lord, there is no way I can repay You for Your kindness to me, especially the gift of salvation through Your Son. I pray that you will change and transform me into person that seeks to glorify You in all that I say and do. Grant me a loving and giving heart. Through Christ, the suffering Servant, I pray. Amen.

Blessings on your stewardship journey!

+LIFE TOGETHER+

► **April 12, 2020 – April 19, 2020**

(All Divine services including Holy Week, Bible Studies, after school catechizing classes are cancelled till the end of April. Meetings will be called as needed. Preschool and ChildCarePLUS will remain close till further notice.)

► **HOPE WHEN YOUR HEART BREAKS: NAVIGATING GRIEF AND LOSS**

by Michael W. Newman

Concordia Publishing House

cph.org 1-800-325-3040

Item #: 124528 / 2017 / Paperback / 224 Pages

Overview

Whether you have lost a job, a dream, a friendship, or a loved one, you mourn. You might mourn for a few weeks, or your grief may extend for years. Sadness seems to build a permanent residence in your bones, weighing down your soul. You wonder if you'll ever feel whole again.

Then—hope. God plunges into your heartbreak and works abiding and holy transformation in your life. It may take months or years for you to heal, but you can ground your hope for healing in Jesus. He will always be your hope when your heart breaks.

Let this book be a place of refuge and a point of reference as you navigate the path of grief. Browse the table of contents and find what speaks to you. As you read, may you discover what you need the most in the midst of grief—hope.

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE

THE CAMP CILCA LOWDOWN

217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org / 4124 Camp Cilca Rd, Cantrall, IL 62625

Part-Time Cook/Kitchen Assistant: CILCA is still in need of a part-time cook to help with Outdoor Education and the Summer Camp program. 10-30 hours per week. \$12-\$14 per hour. Contact the camp office to apply.

Summer Camp Registrations are available on the table in the narthex. And online

(► Indicates new announcements.) [You may also read our announcements online at www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org. You may also receive them by E-mail by writing your E-mail address beside your name in the "Ritual of Friendship" located at the end of the pew.]