



**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)**  
**Central Illinois District (CID)**

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*(Announcements & Calendars can be found @ our Web Site:*  
[www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org](http://www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org) )

**Facebook:** Trinity Lutheran Taylorville  
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lcms.org    cidlcms.org

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**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. – 4 p.m.; *(12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Lunch)*

Friday, 9 a.m. – Noon

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### **From the Pastor**

Grace, mercy and peace to you all from God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

I pray that you all are well and safe. With the COVID vaccine now being administered, our attendance is increasing. If you have not yet gathered with us for worship, let me know when you will and are able to return.

I am including activities and learning suggestions for you and your children of all ages. I hope this will deepen your appreciation and understand of the Divine Service.

### **For younger children**

*Word Search: **Believe***

*[Underline or highlight this word or phrase throughout the Divine Service]*

A Sunday School lesson can be found at our website: [www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org](http://www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org)

5<sup>th</sup> graders and older: Mark the service with directional arrows [↖] as to show what direction the interaction between God, us and with each other is taking place. Use these symbols to indicate our posture during the service | - standing in respect; ⊔ - kneeling to receive a blessing or show respect; ⊞ - humbly sitting to receive from the Lord].

The coloring page can be saved in Paint 3D for your children and you to color on the computer screen.

Also, have those who can read, answer the questions found throughout the Divine Service. They can highlight or underline the answers usually found above the questions.

### **For older children especially those who are in or have in the past studied Luther's Small Catechism**

Where is this found in the Luther's Small Catechism? Put *LSC* in the margin and the section [*Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Office of the Keys, or the Lord's Supper*] of the catechism where this teaching can be found. [*ex: LSC-Baptism*]

A Bible Study on one of the lessons can be found at our website: [www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org](http://www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org)

## **Adults/parents**

You may find this helpful to do the above also, even the drawing and coloring.

For the youngest of your children, draw a cross or a picture, if your talent so allows, anywhere in the Divine Service and let your little ones color them.

Another exercise you can do is to journal your thoughts on the Word and the following service.

Each day read through a section and journal your thoughts and/or insights you may have. If you know to insert and use "Text Box" that is a good way to do it. You may also go to "References" and use "Foot Note" to record your thoughts or insight.

## **Registering for afterschool Catechizing Classes**

With public schools going to remote learning and Vision Way still offering full day classes, the afterschool catechizing classes are going to take on a new look. Remote learning without video capabilities will be offered for those who register for remote learning. Small group sessions can be arranged pending the students' schedule. Once you know their schedules let me know.

Contact the church office to register or if you have any questions.

God bless, keep and increase your faith in Christ as you now read, mark and inwardly digest His Word.

## **Pass This On**

**From the office of the Central Illinois District LCMS**

*Easter 2*

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

There is a difference between doubt and unbelief. This Sunday at church we'll hear from the Gospel of John about the events just after Jesus rose from the dead, which highlight this important distinction.

Every one of us has doubts about Bible teachings. We might wonder how God made the entire creation in six days. This sort of power is far, far beyond our ability to comprehend. We can have trouble accepting that with just a word all of our sins are forgiven, put away from us forever.

Trouble comes not when someone wonders about, or has trouble accepting, some teaching or promise of the Bible. It's when a person hears the teachings and promises and say, "I refuse to believe these things," that he is on the precipice of spiritual danger.

On Easter evening Jesus appears to the disciples and speaks "Peace" to them. Well, except for one. Thomas is not there and when the disciples tell him about what has happened he says, "I will never believe." Thomas has a hard time accepting the amazing thing that has happened. It's beyond his imagination and expectation. He wants to see proof. But he's also refusing to believe otherwise.

Jesus loves Thomas. He appears to him and shows Thomas His hands and side. As impossible as it seems, Thomas can't deny the truth. He replies to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus has given Thomas what he needs to believe, even in the midst of doubts.

Then, Jesus speaks about you and me. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believe." We don't (yet) have the opportunity to see Jesus with our own eyes. But He still comes and gives us what we need to believe. In the midst of our doubts and struggles, we have the Bible which tells us all about Jesus and His love for us — even stories about disciples like Thomas who struggle like we do.

**WORSHIP FOLDER**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Seen and Yet Have Believed**  
**April 10 & 11, 2021**

**As We Gather**

We tend to look for things to make faith easier. Signs, wonders, or just little hints here and there would help. But the disciples had all these things and heard Jesus promise His resurrection, and still they gathered behind the locked doors of their fears. What we do have is Christ, His Word that bestows and sustains our faith, and His Holy Sacrament wherein He feeds us with His body and blood. Though we have not seen with our eyes, we see with faith and join with doubting Thomas to confess, "My Lord and my God!"



**Order of Divine Service *LSB 151***

**Invocation**

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

**Easter Acclamation**

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

**Confession and Absolution 1 John 1:6–10**

P If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,

C **we lie and do not practice the truth.**  
 P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,  
 C **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**  
 P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
 C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**  
 P If we say we have not sinned,  
 C **we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**  
 P Almighty and everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy, You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
 C **Amen.**

*Silence for reflection.*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
 C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**  
 P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 C **Amen.**  
 P May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 C **Amen.**

*Now that Jesus is alive, we know that He can  
 announce to us the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.*

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

**Entrance Hymn "He's Risen, He's Risen" *LSB 480***

1 He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;  
 He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.  
 Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song  
 And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

- 2       The foe was triumphant when on Calvary  
           The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.  
           In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,  
           For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.
- 3       But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,  
           And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.  
           The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;  
           He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.
- 4       O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
           Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.  
           For all our transgressions His blood does atone;  
           Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.
- 5       Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;  
           Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.  
           Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:  
           With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

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**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.**

**Collect of the Day**

- P    Let us pray.  
       Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by  
       Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through  
       the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
       one God, now and forever.
- C    **Amen.**

*By the grace of God, we can tell others that Jesus is*

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**First Reading** Acts 4:32–35

<sup>32</sup>The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

*The resurrection of Jesus had what effect on those who believed in Him?*

**Psalm**

- P <sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!  
C <sup>2</sup>**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!**
- P <sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!  
C <sup>4</sup>**Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**
- P <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.  
C <sup>6</sup>**And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**
- P <sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,  
C <sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!**
- P <sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!  
C <sup>10</sup>**Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!**
- P <sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!  
C <sup>12</sup>**Young men and maidens together, old men and children!**
- P <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD for his name alone is exalted;  
his majesty is above earth and heaven  
C <sup>14</sup>**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints,  
for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!**

*Underline all who praise the Lord.*

**Epistle** 1 John 1:1—2:2

<sup>1</sup>That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup>the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— <sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship

is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. <sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. <sup>1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

*How did John know that Jesus had risen from the dead?*

### **Alleluia and Verse LSB 156**

C **Alleluia.**  
**Lord, to whom shall we go?**  
**You have the words of eternal life.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Holy Gospel John 20:19–31**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.” <sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” <sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## C Praise to You, O Christ.

*Why are the events of Christ's life, death and resurrection recorded for us?*

*Highlight all the words and phrases that describe the benefits we receive for God because Jesus has risen from the dead.*

### **Hymn of the Day** “O Sons and Daughters of the King” *LSB 470*

- 1 O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 That Easter morn, at break of day,  
The faithful women went their way  
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 An angel clad in white they see,  
Who sits and speaks unto the three,  
“Your Lord will go to Galilee.”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 That night the apostles met in fear;  
Among them came their master dear  
And said, “My peace be with you here.”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 5 When Thomas first the tidings heard  
That they had seen the risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples' word.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 6 “My pierced side, O Thomas, see,  
And look upon My hands, My feet;  
Not faithless but believing be.”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 7 No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;

“You are my Lord and God!” he cried.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen  
And yet whose faith has constant been,  
For they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days  
Be laud and jubilee and praise:  
To God your hearts and voices raise.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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### **Sermon** “*Sending You*” *John 20:19–31*

#### Introduction:

We truly have good news to share with others. Jesus has risen. In itself, this is really good news. Who among us wouldn’t rejoice to have a loved one back from the grave? Who among us wouldn’t want to hold and talk once again with a close family member or friend who has passed away?

The disciples experienced this. Their beloved teacher was alive again. At first it filled their hearts with fear. But at the words of Christ, “Peace be with you,” the disciples knew that Christ had returned not to take revenge on them. He came in peace.

There is more to the good news than Jesus being alive. The Good News that we carry in our hearts and share with others is that we are forgiven by God.

#### I. Announce the Forgiveness of Sin

Jesus tells His disciple, “If you forgive the sin of anyone they are forgiven. If you do not forgive the sin of anyone they are not forgiven.” This is the peculiar power Christ has given the disciples and the Church. We get to tell others that their sin is forgiven.

This is more than proclaiming a teaching of Christ. It is the very means by which Christ forgives a person their sins. It is the way Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit washes away the sin of the person. It is the way that He removes the guilt of the sin. It is how He forgets our sin and will remember it no more.

It is a lifesaving announcement. And Christ our King and Savior has given us permission, more, the privilege to announce this forgiveness.

## II. Proclaim What is Written

The one thing we can't control is the other person's reaction to this good news. We cannot reach into the hearts of others to change their hearts from doubt, disbelief or unbelief to saving faith. If we could, we would. But that is left in the hands of one greater than us, the Holy Spirit.

We do not possess the power to persuade another person to believe. Look at Thomas. 10 of his fellow men, plus possibly the two from Emmaus, the women and who knows who else were in that room the night of Christ's resurrection they could not convince Thomas. There was overwhelming evidence. I don't think Thomas would have believed it if he saw a selfie of the disciples and Christ standing together. What would finally convince Thomas was to see Jesus for Himself.

People today challenge us in our faith in Christ. They say we only believe because this is what we have been taught and brain washed to believe. I have answered this comment with an affirmative. Yes, I was taught this before I could read. But now I believe because I have read for myself the Word of God. And by the power of the Holy Spirit I believe Jesus is my Lord and Savior.

This is why these things are written so that we may believe and be saved. The Scriptures do not put down a logical and scholarly argument why Jesus is the Christ. It speaks of the promises of God from the beginning and how He kept His promise. It speaks about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus as what Christ did to pay for the sins of the world.

It is in the hearing and reading of these things by which God the Holy Spirit works in our hearts saving faith. We do not have to win an argument with anyone. We do not have to prove it is true. We get to announce this good news and the Holy Spirit goes to work to create a saving faith in the hearts of the hearer.

We may have to defend the Bible. We may have to point out the errors of false religions and challenge their ability to actually save a person. But we do not have to convince the person, only share the good news and when they repent immediately announce to them their sins are forgiven.

Conclusion:

Yes, there is more to this Good News than just rejoicing over the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yes, we have Him back from the grave. Yes, He lives with us now. But the greater joy for us is what His resurrection means for us. God forgives us our sins and by doing so, we have life everlasting in the presence of the one who once was dead but now is alive.

T AMEN T

## Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

## Prayer of the Church

**P Merciful Father, at Your bidding we come to You in prayer, trusting in Your mercy to supply us with all that is needful and beneficial to us and for all for whom our prayers have been requested.**

Silence the doubts that plague us and deliver us from fear, that believing in You we may know the full comfort of Your gracious presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

**P Deliver us from pride and humble us by Your Spirit so that, confessing all our sins, we know the peace of a clear conscience and serve You with all our heart, mind, body, and soul. Lord, in Your mercy,**

**C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

**P Make Your Church bold in the confession of Your name before the world and give Your blessing to all pastors and church workers as they accomplish Your bidding in their service to us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,**

**C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

**P Guard us from all enemies and bless our nation with good government and good leaders, that we enjoy justice before the law, equality of opportunity in the marketplace, and peace in our communities and between the nations. Lord, in Your mercy,**

**C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

- P Restore those absent too long from the Church's sacramental life and bring to repentance those who have fallen into error and sin, that they may again be one with us at the Table of the Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P Give comfort, healing, patience, and strength to the sick, to those suffering a troubled mind, and to those carrying the heavy burden of grief, that they may know Your presence in their hour of need, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P Accept the praise and thanksgiving of our lips, the tithes and offerings we bring, and our labors for Your glory, that we not suffer from ingratitude or the pride that believes all we have is the fruit of our own work. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P Remembering blessed Thomas and all the disciples, the saints and the martyrs, and those who taught us the faith and now rest from their labors, bring us with them through the day of trouble into the dawn of peace and the place of everlasting life and light through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P Grant to us that may confidently trust that You will both hear and answer the prayers of Your people and supply us with all good things according to Your merciful favor; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

**Offertory** *LSB 159*

- C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

**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.**

**Hymns**

**“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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**"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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**Nunc Dimittis** *LSB 165*

**C Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry  
people:  
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.  
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.**

**Benediction** *LSB 166*

**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.**

**Closing Hymn** "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" *LSB 849*

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light;

Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,  
Healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands  
With the very Bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
To the desert's burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water,  
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,  
Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious  
That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer,  
Praise the One who makes us one.

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