

***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Arvada, Colorado***

Family Devotion in Absence

***Fourth Sunday of Easter - May 3, 2020
Lutheran Service Book (LSB)***

OPENING HYMN *LSB 478 "The Day of Resurrection"*

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

INTROIT *Psalm 66:1-3, 5, 8-9*

Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Alleluia.

Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Alleluia.

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you."

Come and see what God has done:

he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

Bless our God, O peoples;

let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 40:25-31*

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no

might he increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (ESV)

GRADUAL *Adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,
He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
he has put all things under his feet.

EPISTLE *1 Peter 2:11-20*

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. ¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. ¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 16:16-22*

¹⁶ “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.”
¹⁷ So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸ So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?” ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. (ESV)

SERMON HYMN *LSB 483 “With High Delight Let Us Unite”*

SERMON

In this life, we have trouble and problems. Everyone does, but even more so Christian people live here as if we don't belong. And, we don't! That's what Peter means in the Epistle reading when he calls Christians “sojourners and exiles,” or as a different translation states it, we are “strangers and aliens” in this world. Because this isn't our true and everlasting home, we

don't fit in here; and we grow weary. We are weak; we weep and mourn; and we are filled with grief. But the Holy Scriptures teach us that our troubles and problems as Christian will not last forever.

Christ was incarnated, lived, suffered, died, and was resurrected from the dead to bring about a great reversal for us, his people. Jesus says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy ... you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." First of all, Jesus was telling his disciples about his death and burial when they would not see him. Then they would see him again after his resurrection. They had sorrow when he died, but they rejoiced in seeing him resurrected in his body. The reversal happened, from sorrow to joy. In the second place and more broadly speaking, we have grief as Christ's people in this life because we cannot see Jesus with our natural eyes. We long to see him face to face, and sometimes it feels like he is not with us. When we go through difficult times, we weep, mourn, and are filled with grief. But we will see Jesus with our own eyes in our own resurrection in our own bodies on the Last Day, and we will be filled with joy for all eternity. The reversal will happen, from grief and sorrow to gladness and joy. Yet, even now, our grief can turn to joy because by faith we have in our souls Christ's forgiveness of our sins paid for by his death on the cross and eternal life by the power of his resurrection from the dead. Through God's Word and the Holy Sacraments, we already now have forgiveness and eternal life by faith in Christ! The reversal continues to happen in us, from our sin to his righteousness, from eternal death to eternal life. We have this new life now in our souls by faith in Christ, and in our resurrection on the Last Day we will have new life, eternal life, immortal and imperishable life in our glorified bodies. That is the ultimate goal of Christ's resurrection, the greatest reversal of all!

In the Old Testament reading, Isaiah describes the reversal for God's people. About the Lord Isaiah says, "He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength." To put it another way, those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. For us in the New Testament, hope is almost always a reference to the hope of our own resurrection to eternal life. What is more, Isaiah seems to describe what our glorified bodies will be able to do when he says, "they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." In heaven, after our bodies are resurrected, we will be able to walk as far as we want and not get tired ... some among us will walk for the first time in a long time or even for the first time ever! We will be able to run, and run, and run continually and never be out of breath or exhausted. And probably the greatest wonder of all, our bodies will be able to fly and soar like the eagles high above the earth. Our bodies will be like Jesus' glorified body, for we will see him face to face and live with him in the heavenly presence of the Holy Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever without end. Amen!

NICENE CREED

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 of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN *LSB 620 “Jesus Comes Today with Healing”*

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us.
The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *LSB 818 “In Thee Is Gladness”*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Isaiah 12:1-6; James 1:16-21;
John 16:5-15.

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