

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

THE BIBLE – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

GOD – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

MAN – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

SIN – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

REDEMPTION – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

FAITH – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

THE CHURCH – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

SACRAMENTS – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper communicants receive in, with and under the bread and wine also Christ’s body and blood. Believing communicants receive this for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

RESURRECTION – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

The Resurrection of our Lord

April 9, 2023

INTROIT

Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17-18; Antiphon: Exodus 15:1b

*I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.*

*The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.*

*Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.*

*You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.*

*You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain,
the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.*

The LORD will reign forever and ever."

**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.**

*I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.*



COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us.
Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection,
may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through
Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

G *♪[Amen]♪*

GRADUAL

adapt. 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.*

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P *Lord, in Your mercy,*

G *hear our prayer.*

Jeremiah 31:1-6 (ESV)

"At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people." ² Thus says the LORD: "The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, ³ the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. ⁴ Again 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. ⁵ Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. ⁶ For 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.'"

Colossians 3:1-4 (ESV)

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

Matthew 28:1-10 (ESV)

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."

Sermon Text: Luke 24:1-6a

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but has risen.

WHAT IS A PASCHAL CANDLE?

The paschal candle is an ancient symbol of the risen Jesus and commonly used in liturgical parishes during the Great Fifty Days of Easter. It is a very large white candle, the largest and tallest of all sanctuary candles. Paschal candles are always inscribed with a cross, usually with the current year, and the Greek letters alpha and omega (Revelation 1:8 and 22:13), signifying that the Lord is present in His church now in the present year and forever in eternity. Sometimes, five grains of incense, symbolizing the five wounds of Christ, are pressed into the arms and center of the cross with pins or small nails. The paschal candle is prominently featured in the Easter Vigil Service (Holy Saturday) at which it is first lighted and brought into the sanctuary. According to ancient liturgical tradition, it is allowed to shine continuously throughout the Great Fifty Days until it is finally extinguished on Ascension Day. For much of the year many churches stand the paschal candle near the font used for baptisms. Here it provides a reminder that baptism is a symbolic death and rebirth with Christ; just like Christ's death and Resurrection. It is lighted at baptisms to remind Christians that in baptism we are crucified and raised with Jesus (Romans 6:3-5). The paschal candle is also lighted at Christian funerals as a reminder that those who die in Christ are raised up with Him.

EASTER SUNDAY: The Resurrection of Our Lord

Acts 10:34–43 (or Jeremiah 31:1–6); Colossians 3:1–4; St. Matthew 28:1–10

The Victory of the Christ Crucified Is Given to You in the Preaching of His Resurrection

Every Sunday is the Lord's Day, the day of His Resurrection, "after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week" (Matt. 28:1). In the Divine Service the Church enters upon the eternal "Eighth Day." The Lord Jesus, "who was crucified," who "has risen, as He said" (Matt. 28:6), is the firstborn from the dead and the first-fruits of the New Creation. Because "you have died" with Him in Holy Baptism, "you have been raised with Christ" and "your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:1, 3). The Lord Jesus has become our God, as surely as He is "the God of all the clans of Israel," and we now belong to His people (Jer. 31:1). In this He "shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34), but "everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name" (Acts 10:43). As "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power" and "raised Him on the third day," He also raises us up and pours out His Spirit upon us through the Gospel (Acts 10:38, 40).

Next Week's Readings from God's Word:

April 16: The Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:29-42; Psalm 148 (v.13); 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31