

Grace and peace to you,

We're living through days we weren't prepared for and still struggle to face. COVID-19 has effectively brought the modern world to a grinding halt and life after won't be the same after. Despite assurances from government and health officials, no one can make any guarantee. It's a painful reminder that even with all of the advancements and technology we have, humanity still cannot control or overcome the fallen world. There is only One who can, and who has.

Yet even as the Church, the body of Christ, we are struggling to cope. We struggle between our hope in Christ and the fear of the flesh. We struggle between being faithful and being safe. We struggle between how to continue ministry and potentially compromising those we love. There seems to be as much confusion and lack of answers from the church right now as from the world.

And of all times to feel scattered as the body of Christ. Holy Week starts Sunday with Easter just behind. I have heard of some pastors and churches considering "postponing" Easter until we are in the clear. I understand that temptation. The thought of holding Holy Week and Easter Services without all of you present, with my voice echoing in a near empty sanctuary, burdens my heart with sorrow. Even so, I don't think postponing is the right move. There is a certain beauty and the confession of the faith by holding services, even if no one else is present in the sanctuary.

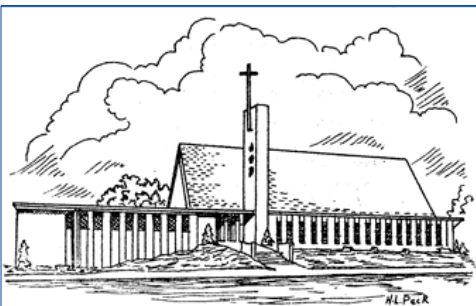
Holding Holy Week and Easter Services at the appointed time reminds us that we are not the center of worship. Jesus is. I think of the Triumphal Entry in Luke 19 when the Pharisees tells Jesus to rebuke His company of disciples and Jesus responds, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." When we come to worship, we are simply dipping into the river of life and joining our voices with the saints, and all creation, in the unending song of praise!

To hold services as scheduled, even if the sanctuary is empty, reminds us that just because the world has stopped working, Christ hasn't. It reminds us that even in this time of apprehension and fear, Christ has already won the battle and overcome death and the grave *for us*, and we need have no fear for He is working even this for our good. It reminds us that we are the Church, the body of our Risen Savior, and neither the Coronavirus nor the gates of hell can ever prevail against us. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! Amen.

I pray you join me in worship during all our Holy Week and Easter Services, as we celebrate the feast of our Lord who death could not hold! More info on how to do that is in the newsletter.

In Christian love,

Pastor Timothy Roth



Office: (620) 473-2343

Cell: (314) 650-1745

www.stpetershumboldt.org

office@stpetershumboldt.org

pastor@stpetershumboldt.org

Facebook

@StPetersHumboldt

@PastorTimothyRoth

Instagram

@StPetersHumboldt

@Pastor_Roth

Catechetical Corner

LESSONS FOR THE LIFE LONG LUTHERAN



The Augsburg Confession

Article VI New Obedience

We know that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone, but what exactly does this freedom in Christ give to us? Does it give us the freedom to indulge in our every desire? Does it give us the freedom to do as we please? Or does it give us freedom from the guilt and bondage of sin so that we may do the will of the Father? Salvation does not come on account of our good works, but that does not mean our good works are meaningless. Good works are not the *cause* of saving faith, but they are the *result* of it. As Lutherans, we firmly hold to this teaching.

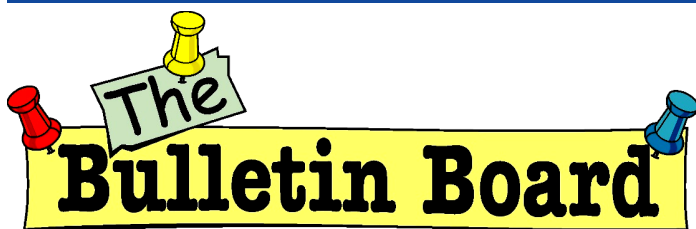
Our churches teach that this faith is bound to bring forth good fruit. It is necessary to do good works commanded by God, because of God's will. We should not rely on those works to merit justification before God. The forgiveness of sins and justification is received through faith. The voice of Christ testifies, "So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'we are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty,'" (Luke 17:10). The Fathers teach the same thing. Ambrose says, "It is ordained of God that he who believes in Christ is saved, freely receiving forgiveness of sins, without works, through faith alone."

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

-Ephesians 2:8-10

At the time of the Reformation, many were taught there was some great balance in heaven weighing your sin vs. good works. If your good works didn't at least equal your sin, then your salvation was shaky. Good news though! When you went to confession and revealed *all* your sin to the priest, he could render judgement and assign you 'works' to make satisfaction for, or make-up for, your sin. After, and only after, you made satisfaction could these sins be forgiven. Therefore any unconfessed sin, even sin forgotten, would still be held against you in the heavenly courtroom when you died. If you didn't want to spend millennia suffering in purgatory to 'purify your soul', then you better do all the satisfactions and good work that you can now.

This was the place good works held for Christians in the time leading up to the Reformation. They were not done in joy and thankfulness, but out of obligation and fear. The honest Christian knew they were always playing "catch-up" under this system. Yet the Lutheran Reformers searched the Scriptures and learned that this was not the system Christ established. Scripture testifies that salvation is a gift from God. Paul writes, "But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to



The Bulletin Board

Attending Church

Pastor and the Elders have met and discussed our way forward. We encourage everyone who is able to livestream our worship services online to do so. Here is the link: [facebook.com/StPetersHumboldt/videos](https://www.facebook.com/StPetersHumboldt/videos).



IMPORTANT

You DO NOT NEED a Facebook account in order to view our page or the videos on it. If you need help, please let the office know! We can try our best to get you connected. The services are also recorded and left on our Facebook page and can be watched later.

We are still going to try and take attendance, so if you are online please leave a comment. If you watch with your family, let us know who is watching with you. You can also send carman a record of your attendance at office@stpetershumboldt.org

Sunday School

Pastor is going to attempt to host Sunday School through Zoom starting in April. A link will be posted to Facebook as well as emailed. We haven't done this before so we might have to work out some kinks, but this platform gives us the ability to not only have several people on video conferencing, but I will also be able to "present" by sharing my screen with you! I pray this will be a blessing to us in this time.



Catechetical Corner—Continued from Page 2
it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe,” (Romans 3:21-22).

As our Ephesians passage above reminds us, good works then flow out of the holiness we are given in Christ. In Him we have been saved and made clean, not so that we could dirty ourselves again with the indulging the flesh, but by bearing the fruits of the Spirit. In Galatians 5 Paul's writes:

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

...For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

...But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. ...those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Simply put, as John the Baptist says, "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance." Those who have been made alive in Christ by the Spirit desire to do the Father's will. That is the place that good works have in the life of the Christian. Not a burden, but as a delight; done with a cheerful heart; done out of love in which there is no fear of punishment.

So as we meander through life, we are always attentive to the Word and work of Jesus to feed our spirit within us as the Spirit uses that Word and work of Jesus to lead us and guide us. When we find ourselves in sin, we do not need to despair but instead turn again to Christ for our forgiveness and ask Him to lead us into the paths of righteousness. Amen.

Holy Week and Easter Services

We will stream all Holy Week services as originally scheduled, 7:30 PM, on their respective days. The Supper will not be administered during the service Maundy Thursday. The Easter Sunrise service has been cancelled, but our Easter Day service will be streamed as scheduled at 9:30 AM.

Daily Devotions

Pastor started streaming live devotions on Facebook during the week at 2:00 PM. The ordinary routine is as follows:

Monday—Hymn Study
 Tuesday—Sunday Readings
 Wednesday—Catechesis
 Thursday—Other Topics

Come join as we look at the treasure of God's Word together! These videos are recorded and available to watch on demand at our Facebook Page.

Pastoral Care and the Lord's Supper

If you desire in-person pastoral care and/or the Lord's Supper, it has been recommended these be done at the church building. It is much easier to practice social distancing in the church building and sanitize after every visit than for people to sanitize their homes after a visit. So please, contact the office to schedule a visit if you would like!

Vacation Bible School

"Let Us Pray" VBS is planned for July 12th—16th! The Board of Ed is remaining flexible. Our pray is that we will be able to have VBS as normal, but we are prepared to adapt and create a "virtual" VBS if needed.



Let Us Pray
 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Please keep us in your prayers, and be on the look out for more information as we set to work planning this event!

Continued Giving

We live in a society that teaches us we pay for the services we receive. On **GIVE+** account of this, it is easy to forget our offering to the church when we aren't physically present. God calls on us to cheerfully give, not out of obligation or compulsion, but as a grateful response to the gifts He so freely gives to us.

It is an uncomfortable request and reminder, but one that is necessary if we hope to still have a place to congregate and receive those gifts once this is all over. Please do not forget your contributions to the church in whatever amount you can.

To give, you can drop off your offering at the office or put a check in the mail. You can also go to our secure portal, stpetershumboldt.org/give-support/, to donate via debit card or, if you create an account, direct deposit (which does not charge a fee). If you create an account you can also set up recurring donations to make it easier on you!

You can also download the Give+ app for your smart device. Once you create an account just search for us. Thank you!

**Support
 St. Peter's Lutheran
 Church.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
 Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

Cookbook Fundraiser

The Stewardship Committee is beginning to work on a cookbook fundraiser for our congregation. Be on the lookout later in April when they will begin collecting recipes. We'd love if you would share your favorites with us. The proceeds from the cookbook will go toward our general fund.



The Apple Friends Orchard



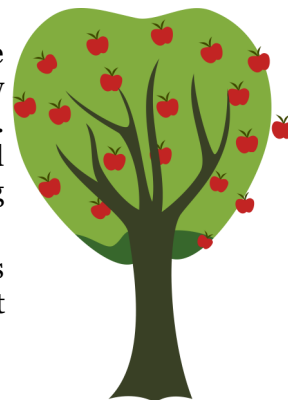
Where Friendships are Planted and Nurtured

Your Apple Friends could really use some words of encouragement this month! Coronavirus has affected all of our lives, but they are feeling the impact the most. School canceled; isolated from friends; seeing the adults in their lives carrying around anxiety and panic, they could use a reminder of the rock solid promise we have in Christ to watch over and care for us.

Please consider sending your Apple Friends an Easter Card with a personal note inside asking how they are doing. You could ask them how they are feeling about school, how they are handling not being able to see friends. Tell them why you love Easter so much. Tell them about how you take comfort and hope in our crucified, risen, and ascended Lord! Tell them why the resurrection of Jesus, and the promise it holds of everlasting life for us, is so comforting to us right now.

You can also tell them how much you look forward to getting back to church once this is all over. Tell them why the gathering of the saints is so important and why you can't wait to get back. Tell them you hope to see them too once this is all over.

May the Lord bless us, strengthen us, and use us in this troubled time. Amen.



CPH FaithCourses



Don't let Coronavirus stop you from learning! Now is a great time to check out CPH FaithCourses, cphfaithcourses.com/. There are free and premium book studies available. Some books we have on the shelf at church. If you're interested in a course and would like to see if church has the book available, contact Pastor and he will be happy to check as well as set up a time for you to pick it up. Otherwise, you can purchase your own copy of the book and have it delivered right to your door!

Faith @ Home

I created a page on our website, "Faith @ Home," stpetershumboldt.org/faith-home/. The goal is to help you nurture your faith while "scattered" from the church body. It is still in its infancy, but I hope to grow it with all kinds of resources, both in-house and other, to help you stay rooted in the faith!

Care Calls

Don't be surprised if you get a call from pastor, an elder, or congregational president. We are reaching out to connect. It's important to check-in with one another and keep in contact during this time of isolation. Look forward to talking soon!

Other Resources

There are plenty of good resources available online, both official LCMS as well as "homegrown," to help you keep active in the faith. Here are just a few:

crucialproductions.org

heidigoehmann.com

higherthings.org/podcasts

thewordendures.org

wolfmuller.co

piratechristian.com

issuesetc.org

kfuo.org

kfuo.org/regular-programs

blog.cph.org

lhm.org

lcms.org/worship/bible-studies

lcms.org/about/leadership/commission-on-theology-and-church-relations

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Article



On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church. The most common question: “How much should I give?” But what they really mean is this: “Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?” So, let’s look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians shouldn’t give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn’t tithe because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no “Thus saith the Lord” and no “should” for giving a tithe to your congregation. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe. Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won’t have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Titling, giving a tenth, was commanded by God in the OT, Lv 27:30. There were several sorts of tithes: that paid to the Levites and priests (Nm 18:21–31); that paid for the Lord’s feast (Dt 14:22–26); that given every 3d yr. for the poor (Dt 14:28–29). In times of religious depression the people neglected to pay tithes, Ml 3:7–9. In the NT tithing is not enjoined (Mt 23:23 and Lk 11:42 refer to past necessity); it would be contrary to Christian liberty. That does not mean that Christians should not give tithes; but if they do, it should be voluntarily. –Christian Encyclopedia, encyclopedia.lcms.org

Following are some reasons for why Christians should give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7). But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do? Let’s answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I’d expect that conversation would be something like this: “I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.” This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It’s not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you’re giving when you’re giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.

THE S.E.A. SIDE WOODS

*Rev. Matthew, Kali, Laurel, Elenore, and Caroline Wood
Ministry in Southeast Asia—Based in Medan, Indonesia
<https://www.theseaside.asia/>*

Small Catechism Workshop

Posted March 9th, 2020

From February 26–28 I lead a Small Catechism workshop in Taupejat, Mentawai. A chain of about seventy islands off the west coast of Sumatra comprise the Islands of Mentawai. The Small Catechism Workshop was held in the city of Taupejat on the island of Sipora. About 10 pastors and 70 church leaders were in attendance in addition to the leadership of the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI).

Travel to Sipora Island took 24 hours. I left my home at about 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25 and arrived at the hotel in Taupejat at 11:30 a.m. the following day. The islands of Mentawai are only accessible via a ferry that departs from the city of Padang four times a week. The ferry ride was enjoyable as it was the first time I have ever been on a boat with land completely out of sight. In Indonesian they call this laut lepas, which translates to open ocean.

Once the workshop began the schedule was intense. The days started at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast and concluded at 9:00 p.m. after the post-dinner session. Our meeting room was on the top floor of a three floor hotel in a room with no air conditioning. It was hot! It was worth it though to be able to work through the catechism with the new GKLI congregations in Mentawai. We had time to work through each of the six chief parts of the Small Catechism: the 10 Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. I also had the opportunity to put my language learning to the test as I led Matins on Thursday morning completely in Indonesian, including the sermon!

I discuss the Small Catechism with the pastors and congregational leaders of the GKLI Mentawai congregations. Sitting on stage with me is Pastor Eben Ezer, my translator. There is another row of tables out of the picture on the right.



One of the goals of this workshop was to get to know the pastors and congregational leaders of the congregations in Mentawai. Through paying attention to their interest, interaction, questions, and comments we can understand a little more about their context and the challenges that they face. One area that sparked a lot of interest and interaction was the Lord's Prayer, the role of prayer, and how to pray. We were able to discuss Martin Luther's letter to his barber titled A Simple Way to Pray. They were very



**The Mentawai Islands
off the west coast of
Sumatra Island.**



interested in the pattern of prayer which Martin Luther discusses there: instruction, thanksgiving, repentance, and request. The pastors and lay people were also interested in very practical advice such as how do we talk to people about infant baptism? What should be done if someone gets baptized again? What is the best way to distribute the Lord's supper?

In all the Workshop was a resounding success and as I departed for home on Friday my mind was racing with how to meet the needs of the people here. It is very clear that they very much appreciate the help and aid of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. They are so thankful to all of you who make time to pray for them and support the ministry here with your gifts. The Lord be praised for the growing relationship between the GKLI and the LCMS!

COVID-19

Posted March 22nd, 2020

According to the Indonesian Government there are currently 514 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 48 reported deaths in Indonesia. Up to five of the cases are in the Province of North Sumatra where we live. The Island of Java seems to have been hit the hardest. The present situation in Medan, the city we call home, cannot be known for sure because the testing just isn't available. The reaction here is much like the rest of the world. The Government of Indonesia has closed all points of entry for non-citizens. A foreigner can only enter after receiving a special visa from an Indonesian Embassy. The application for this visa includes a letter from the Health Department of the person's home government. Schools have been cancelled. The streets are quiet. The people with whom I am in regular contact are concerned, but not panicked. So far there has been no run on toilet paper or any other essentials (except for hand sanitizer but that was always a little bit hard to find here).

We are currently all healthy and staying at home. This is important especially for our girls, particularly Eleanor. Because Eleanor is very blonde with very pale skin, her cheeks are pinched and her hair is touched by the people here when we go out into public. Caroline is also the target of a lot of physical affection, which is mostly hands touching her face. So, naturally, we are keeping them home. We are thankful that our home provides plenty of space and a yard where the girls can play.

Last Friday, March 20th, we finished up our last unit of language learning. The school would like us to do a 20 minute presentation as a final evaluation. We are going to wait two weeks, monitor the situation here, and then set a date. We would have liked to go out for a celebratory meal or maybe take a celebratory trip out of the city, alas all that will have to wait.

Fortunately, the work that lies ahead in the immediate future for the ministry here can be accomplished through working at home. We have set the publication goal of the Indonesian Hymnal (BIL) for Easter 2021. So I will be spending a lot of time proof reading and formatting that. We will have to delay the podcast that was in the works as I was planning to travel to Jakarta for that. Thankfully, we did not have any conferences or large group meetings planned. Of course we will not be able to plan any new conferences or workshops until this global pandemic passes.



Indonesian Hymnal Progress

Posted March 23rd, 2020

We have reached a huge milestone in our life and work here in Medan. On Friday, March 20th Kali and I went to our last Bahasa Indonesia Class. When we arrived in Medan in May of 2019 we hit the ground running. In less than a week we had our first lesson scheduled and we have been working hard since then. We did take about six weeks off for the birth of Caroline and there were some major public holidays mixed in like Idul Fitri and Christmas, but we have finally made it! What a ride. It feels like just yesterday we started and at the same time like this has taken an excruciatingly long time. We are so thankful for everyone's prayers and support through this process we were blessed and comforted to know that we were not alone.



There is definitely more to learn. Kali and I will see how the natural learning of the language comes along and then make adjustments as necessary moving forward. Right now though our life is going to change... again. Thankfully we don't have to move, but the structure of our day is going to completely change. We had been dedicating six hours a day to language learning. Now that classes are completed it will certainly be less, even though we know that we still have to keep up with it.

We like much of the rest of the world are doing our best to self isolate ourselves against COVID-19. So our days wont look 'normal' for some time. For the time being, Kali will be dedicating much of the newly available time to homeschooling Laurel and Eleanor. I will be dedicating a lot of attention to working on the Indonesian Hymnal.



Hello friends and partners in mission!



Sadly, at the end of March Coronavirus finally made its way into Belize. They, like most of the world, are finding their lives turned upside down. The Prime Minister of Belize has closed the international airport at this time. As of now, there are only three confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Belize. Thankfully, due to the government's swift action, it seems that there has only been three infections, and those infected are recovering.

Please pray for Belize as they try to clamp down on this and not let the virus spread. They do not have near the equipment nor the general health that we do to keep the harmful effects at bay.

As of now, only those deployed with the Belize Mission Society are able to continue the work. All trips have been temporarily suspended. However, Pastor Meissner has asked that there will be a lot of work to do in Belize soon as we are able to get back down there. Therefore he requests continued support, perhaps even increased support, from those who are able. The Belize Mission Society wants to remain strong and stand prepared to resume mission trips as soon as we are able to.

That said, Pastor may or may not be going on the trip at the end of June. If that trip is cancelled, there may be an opportunity for him to go in early December, otherwise it will have to wait until next year. Only time will tell.

For more info on the Belize Mission Society, please visit www.belizemissionsociety.net.



Devoted to Worship: Service of the Sacrament, Part I: Preface, Proper Preface, Sanctus & Benedictus

The second major focus of the Divine Service is the celebration of Holy Communion, which is one of the unique marks of the Christian community. By it the members are connected to the Body of Christ as they receive the precious body and blood of Jesus “in, with, and under” the bread and wine. More than any other part of the service, the Sacrament is filled with the mystery of God as well as the concrete assurance of His grace.

The early Christians reserved the Sacrament for those who were baptized and properly instructed. The Sacraments strengthens our personal faith and gives witness to our corporate faith. It is not merely an act of personal devotion or faith. “Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread,” (1 Cor. 10:17).

Paul tells the Corinthians that he cannot commend their celebration of the Lord’s Supper because there are divisions and factions among them (11:17-20). The first half of the letter reveals these divisions are primarily theological in nature, that is, a difference of belief. On account of their divisions, they profane the meal and take it not to their salvation but to their judgement, for participating in the Supper is itself a confession of common faith, (26).

We begin this second half of the Divine Service with an ancient dialogue between pastor and people. It is the oldest and most well preserved portion of the liturgy. Chanting helps worshipers ponder this unique conversation taking place. It comes in three parts: salutation, *sursum corda*, and eucharist.

The pastor and people ask the Lord to be present with each other. In doing so they are reminded of the special relationship they share. In the Salutation mutual caring and sharing become explicit. It invites participation and attention, imparting a blessing and bond of love communicating a strong relationship in

Christ. This is the flock God gave the pastor to care for, and this is the pastor God has gave to feed His flock. The blessing, then, comes from the Lord Himself as He speaks through the mouth of His publicly appointed minister. The response to this blessing is an acknowledgement of God’s Spirit resting upon the pastor.

The phrase, “Lift up your hearts,” (*sursum corda*) and the response, “We lift them to the Lord,” are from Lamentations 3:41 and Psalm 86:4. These words reflect our responsive anticipation of God’s most powerful gift to us—Himself. This part of the dialogue dates to the second-century. It helps the congregation focus on those spiritual things from “above,” (Col. 3:1-2; John 11:41). The hearts of the gathered are to receive and their minds are to reflect on the greatness of God’s love, which caused Him to send His Son into this world.

Next comes an exhortation, “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.” The Greek word *eucharist* means “thanksgiving,” which is our appropriate response to God’s promises to us. Jesus also prayed a prayer of thanksgiving or blessing before breaking the bread. The people respond by acknowledging that such thanksgiving is the right and proper thing to do.

After the general introductory remarks, the liturgy continues with a specific focus. In early forms, the Preface recalled the history of salvation, beginning with creation and moving through Christ’s life and the institution of the Holy Supper. Later, it became more focused on an aspect of salvation appropriate to the specific season of the Church Year. These seasonal, or proper, prefaces provide concrete reasons for giving thanks in light of God’s actions through the life of Christ.

Each Proper Preface concludes with the acknowledgement of our corporate praise. At this point in the liturgy, we confess that worship is not limited by time or space. As God’s gathered guests we join in the unending worship experience “with angels and archangels and with all the company of

heaven.” Our weekly worship joins the perpetual worship of the angelic choirs and the invisible Church of all ages. We might recall the words of Hebrews 12:1: “We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.” Thus the Proper Preface prepares worshipers to join in the eternal song of heaven.

“Holy, holy, holy,” (*sanctus, sanctus, sanctus* in Latin) is the great angelic hymn found in Isaiah 6:3. The prophet describes the seraphim gathered around the throne of God, chanting a confession of God’s supreme “otherness” (which is one meaning of the word *holy*) and separateness from all that He created. The angels covered themselves in the face of God’s divine glory, yet Isaiah was privileged to witness this. We are also able to participate in this inspired adoration as our worship takes on a supratemporal nature (literally, “above time”) and becomes truly eternal.

In some of our service settings, God is described in the Sanctus as the “God of power and might.” In other settings the more ancient title is used: “God of Sabaoth.” This phrase refers to God’s as a powerful and divine warrior who comes with His angelic armies to free His people, as in Psalm 89:5-18 and used in Romans 9:29 and James 5:4. In the general sense it describes God’s omnipotence.

Immediately appended to the Sanctus is the Hosanna and the Benedictus. In Psalm 118:25-26, a form of *hosanna* is translated “O Lord, save us” and is translated, “O Lord, save us,” and is coupled with the Benedictus, “Blessed is He.” The people of Jerusalem sang these messianic verses as Jesus

entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. These words of Jesus’ first disciples and followers are also our hymns of praise as Jesus comes to us in the mystery and marvel of the Sacrament.

A Lutheran tradition that has largely been lost is to bow during the singing of the Sanctus and to make the sign of the cross at the Benedictus. These two actions provide a physical response to the awesome awareness of God’s graciousness in Christ. He has truly come to be with us in this meal.

Adapted from Gathered Gusts by CPH.



PRAYING FOR CONGREGATIONS & PASTORS: CIRCUIT 11

Zion Lutheran Church, Argonia; Rev. David Ersland

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Arkansas City; Rev. David Herald

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cheney

Faith Lutheran Church, Derby; Rev. Thomas Johnson

Bethany Lutheran Church, Wichita; Rev. William Wingfield

Grace Lutheran Church, Wichita; Rev. Geoffrey Boyle, Rev. Daniel Metzger

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wichita

Trinity Lutheran Church, Wichita; Rev. Geoffrey Boyle, Rev. Daniel Metzger

Trinity Lutheran Church, Winfield; Rev. Rocky Mease

Trinity Lutheran Church, Medicine Lodge; Rev. Dennis Fangmeyer

St. John Lutheran Church, Nashville; Rev. Dennis Fangmeyer

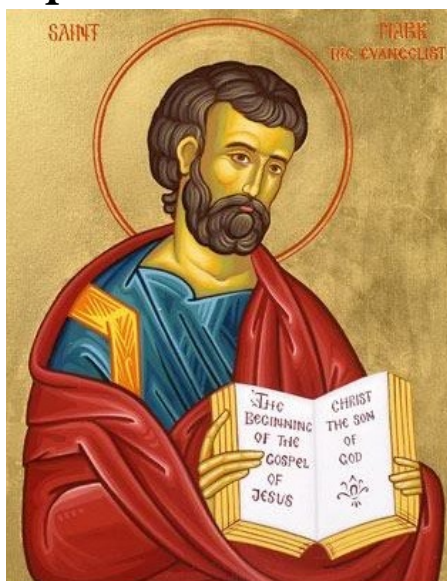
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Preston; Rev. Michael Schotte

Candidate and Emeritus: Rev. Marvin Barz, Rev. Richard Boyer, Rev. Ron Gloe, Rev. Kenneth Haskell,

Rev. Roderick Hathaway, Rev. Allen Hoger, Rev. Gilbert Holstein, Rev. Mark Wenger, Rev. Cliff Winter



April 25: St. Mark, *Evangelist*



John Mark was cousin to the apostle Barnabas. His mother's home in Jerusalem was a meeting place for the Early Church. "The weak by grace are made strong" in the hymn stanza refers to the famous incident recorded in Acts 15. Though John Mark had begun the first missionary journey with Paul and Barnabas, he did not finish it. We're not told exactly why he returned, but it was clearly without Paul's blessing. Barnabas, true the true son of encouragement, was all for giving the young man a second chance when he and Paul determined to begin a second journey. Paul adamantly refused. The disagreement became so sharp that they ended up splitting ways. Paul took Silas and went to Asia Minor; Barnabas took Mark and went to Cyprus.

If that were the end of the story it would be sad indeed. What a comfort, then, to read in St. Paul's final letter, 2 Timothy 4:11 "Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry." Though a veil of silence remains over the details of how it happened, the two were reconciled before Paul's death and

the Church's ministry strengthened all the more.

Additionally, Peter, writing from Rome, would say, "She who is at Babylon [code name for Rome, as in Revelation], who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son." Thus Mark ministered not only with the apostles Barnabas and Paul but with Peter too. Very early and nearly unanimous tradition states that Mark's Gospel itself is actually a summary of the account of our Lord's life that Mark learned from Peter before the apostle's martyrdom in Rome. Scholars have pointed out that Peter's sermon in Acts 10:34-43 provides a strikingly precise outline of Mark's Gospel.

Mark is the shortest of the four canonical Gospels and the fastest paced ("immediately" is its watchword). It provides a beautiful picture of Christ as the conquering King, who battles and drives out the enemies of the human race (the demons) just as Joshua drove out the inhabitants of Canaan, a battle that culminates at the cross. The symbol associated with St. Mark is the lion, king of the beasts. Mark's Gospel contains some teaching sections from our Lord, but it is overwhelmingly a fast-paced action account, right up to the disproportionately long narrative of the Lord's Passion. In fact, it has been called a Passion narrative with a preface.

Mark is said to have finished his service to Christ by serving as bishop in the great city of Alexandria in Egypt, ultimately dying there a martyr's death.



Almighty God, You have enriched Your Church with proclamation of the Gospel through the evangelist Mark. Grant that we may firmly believe these glad tidings and daily walk according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*For Mark, O Lord, we praise You,
The weak by grace made strong,
Whose labors and whose Gospel
Enrich our triumph song.
May we, in all our weakness,
Reflect Your servant life
And follow in Your footsteps,
Enduring cross and
strife.*

LSB 518:15

From *Celebrating the Saints*
by William Weedon



Hymn of Easter — Hymn Study

LSB 474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen (audio)

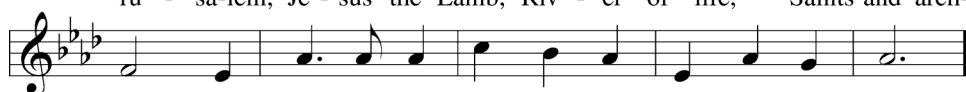
Text: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Tune: © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House. LSB Hymn License no. 110002124



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the
 3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
 sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us
 Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
 sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be
 ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text Background As the Lutheran hymnal supplement *With One Voice* was being prepared in 1995, its editors suggested Herbert Brokering (1926-2009) write an Easter hymn for the tune EARTH AND ALL STARS that would draw together images and themes from throughout the Easter season. The result has been one of the most widely requested and apparently widely used hymns in the volume.

Text Commentary The first stanza announces the resurrection of our Lord, with images of “trumpets resounding,” from the Lamb (Rev 5:13), and heaven. The refrain unequivocally proclaims Christ’s resurrection and the absolute certainty that it imparts to all believers that we also shall arise. It ends by glorifying God, just as the hymn began with “alleluia!” Stanza 2 recalls that account of the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-49), incorporating one of the hallmarks of Brokering’s

poetry: the word “surprise.” John 15:1-11, the teaching of Jesus being the vine and His disciples the branches is reflected in stanza 3; stanza 4 captures St. Paul’s discussion of the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15. With its references to the “city of God,” the “Lamb,” and the “river of life,” Brokering brings his hymn to a conclusion with allusions to Revelation 21 and 22.

Summer “Hymns of the Month” This summer we’re opening “Hymn of the Month” to requests! If you have a favorite hymn or a hymn you think we should all learn and know in one of our song books, let us know! How long we sing the hymn will depend on how many hymn requests we receive.

Other days of the Church Year This Month:

6—Lucas Cranach and Albrecht Dürer, *Artists*

20—Johannes Bugenhagen, *Pastor*

21—Anselm of Canterbury, *Theologian*

24—Johann Walter, *Kantor*

25—St. Mark, *Evangelist*



Readings and Prayers for This Month's Sundays

Palm/Passion Sunday (4/5)

Jn 12:20-43; Is 50:4-9a; Ps 118:19-29; Phil 2:5-11; Mt 26-27

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Monday in Holy Week (4/6)

Is 50:5-10; Ps 36:5-10; Heb 9:11-15; Mt 26:1-27:66; Jn 12:1-23

Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be restored through the passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Tuesday in Holy Week (4/7)

Is 49:1-7; Ps 71:1-14; 1 Cor 1:18-31; Mk 14:1-15:47; Jn 12:23-50

almighty and everlasting God, grant us by Your grace so to pass through this holy time of our Lord's passion that we may obtain the forgiveness of our sins; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Wednesday in Holy Week (4/8)

Is 62:11-63:7; Ps 70; Rm 5:6-11; Lk 22:1-23:56; Jn 13:16-38

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Holy/Maundy Thursday (4/9)

Ex 24:3-11; Ps 116:12-19; Heb 9:11-22; Matthew 26:17-30

-or- Ex 12:1-14; Ps 116:12-19; 1 Cor 11:23-32; Jn 13:1-17, 31b-35

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever .

Good Friday (4/10)

Is 52:13-53:12; Ps 22; Ps 31; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Holy Saturday (4/11)

Dn 6:1-24; Ps 16; 1 Pt 4:1-8; Mt 27:57-66

O God, creator of heaven and earth, grant that as the crucified body of Your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with Him the coming of the third day, and rise with Him to newness of life, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Easter Sunrise (4/12)

Ex 14:10-15:1; Ps 118:15-29; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Jn 20:1-18

Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Readings and Prayers for This Month's Sundays

Easter Day (4/12)

Jer 31:1-6; Acts 10:34-43; Ps 16; Col 3:1-4; Mt 28:1-10

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 .

O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

Easter Evening (4/12)

Ex 15:1-18; Dn 12:1c-3; Ps 100; Acts 10:34-43; 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Lk 24:13-49

O God, in the paschal feast You restore all creation. Continue to send Your heavenly gifts upon Your people that they may walk in perfect freedom and receive eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Easter Tuesday (4/14)

Dn 3:8-28; Ps 2; Acts 13:26-33; Lk 24:36-49

Almighty God, through the resurrection of Your Son You have secured peace for our troubled consciences. Grant us this peace evermore that trusting in the merit of Your Son we may come at last to the perfect peace of heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Easter Wednesday (4/15)

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 61; Col 3:1-7; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 21:1-14

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.

Second Sunday after Easter (4/19)

Acts 5:29-42; Ps 148; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

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.

Mark, Evangelist (4/25)

Is 52:7-10; Ps 146; 2 Tim 4:5-18; Mk 16:14-20

Almighty God, You have enriched Your Church with the proclamation of the Gospel through the evangelist Mark. Grant that we may firmly believe these glad tidings and daily walk according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Third Sunday of Easter (4/26)

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 116:1-14; 1 Pt 1:17-25; Lk 24:13-35

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

April 2020

ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| CALENDAR MONTH | APRIL |
| CALENDAR YEAR | 2020 |
| 1ST DAY OF WEEK | SUNDAY |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 29 8:15a Communion 10:30a Communion | 30 | 31 | 1 12:15p Lenten Service 6:00p Lenten Service | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 8:15a Communion 10:30a Communion | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 7:30p Maundy Thursday | 10 7:30p Good Friday Service | 11 7:30p Easter Vigil |
| 12 Easter Sunday 9:30a Easter Day Service | 13 | 14 | 15 6:00p Chapel Service | 16 | 17 | 18 DEADLINE FOR CALENDAR & NEWSLETTER |
| 19 8:15a Service 10:30a Service | 20 | 21 | 22 6:00p Chapel Service | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 8:15a Service 10:30a Service | 27 | 28 | 29 6:00p Chapel Service | 30 | 1 | 2 |



BIRTHDAYS

- 01 PJ Schomaker
- 02 Jenell Baker
- 03 Kayla Rather
- 06 Sydney Hutton
- 11 Sandi Eggers
- 11 Alin Martin
- 12 Lynn Lytle
- 14 Ken Lumley
- 15 Debbie Mueller
- 16 Janice Schomaker
- 16 Joe Almond
- 17 Tim Baker
- 17 Josh Hull
- 18 Dave Scantlin
- 25 Kelly Nordt
- 26 Glodine Clements*
- 27 David Avery
- 28 Sean Leroy
- 28 Eileen Robertson*

**Special Birthday
80 years & older*



APRIL

- 07 Don & LuAnn Hauser – 30 Years!
- 09 Joe & Linda Michael – 37 Years!
- 10 Scott & Gretchen Murrow – 21 Years!
- 14 Bob & Renee Debler – 24 Years!
- 28 Scott & Heather Daniels – 19 Years!



SERVICE to the LORD
ELDER
 Pending
USHER
 Pending
GREETERS
 Pending



COMMUNION PREPARATION
 8:15 am Darrell Krone
 10:30 am Darrell Krone

APRIL



- 05 Alisha Mueller
- 05 Bob Wulf
- 07 Veronica Bulk
- 07 Mary Lumley
- 07 Christian Sallee
- 07 Alicia Schomaker
- 10 Brea Jones
- 10 Josie Rather
- 14 Gretchen Murrow
- 16 Isabelle & Kirstyn Murrow
- 16 Carol Stoll
- 16 Sandra Hurst
- 17 Carl Ranabarger
- 18 Mary Brown
- 20 PJ Schomaker
- 21 Janet Storck
- 25 Dale Daniels
- 29 Jenell Baker



**SERVICE to the LORD
in April**

ELDER Early Service

- April 5: Ken Lumley
- April 19: Ken Lumley
- April 26: Curt Mueller

ELDER Late Service

- April 5: Curt Mueller
- April 19: Leon Storck
- April 26: Darrell Krone

**ELDER Maundy Thursday
Service**

Leon Storck

ELDER Easter Service

Darrell Krone

COMMUNION PREPARATION

- 8:15 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m.

