

+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

+FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER+ 08 MAY 2022+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgslcms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Leon Tarr, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

*The entire service, including the **rubrics** of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.*

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

A Note From the Organist:

Dale Wood spent much of his career in the Bay Area, serving mostly in Episcopal Churches. He wrote many organ and choral works, and has contributed several Hymn Tunes to modern hymnals. In LSB, he has given us “Wojtkiewicz” (667, 825) and “Laurel” (870). His setting of “In There is Gladness” features a dialogue between the Swell Harmonic Flute and the Choir Trombone, a reed stop which represents a forerunner to both the Oboe and Clarinet.

Wayne Wold was music director at Camp David for many years, where he often played for Presidents. His setting of “Holy Manna” uses the Festival Trumpet to great effect.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen



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!



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



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

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926-2009

Tune: David N. Johnson, 1922-87

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Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

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

Exhortation

LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- 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.

Absolution

LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 66:3, 5, 8-9; antiphon: vv. 1-2

Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Alle- | luia.*
Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Alle- | luia.
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 chil- | dren 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 be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
 Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Alle- | luia.*
 Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Alle- | luia.

Kyrie

LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



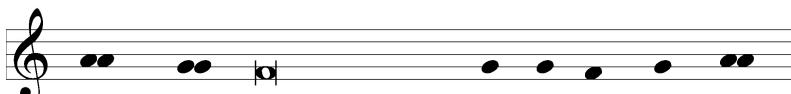
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

LSB 171



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

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.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Lamentations 3:22-33

22The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

his mercies never come to an end;

23they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

24“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,

“therefore I will hope in him.”

25The Lord is good to those who wait for him,

to the soul who seeks him.

26It is good that one should wait quietly

for the salvation of the Lord.

27It is good for a man that he bear
the yoke in his youth.
28Let him sit alone in silence
when it is laid on him;
29let him put his mouth in the dust—
there may yet be hope;
30let him give his cheek to the one who strikes,
and let him be filled with insults.
31For the Lord will not
cast off forever,
32but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
33for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve the children of men.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 147:1–11; antiphon: v. 5

He Heals the Brokenhearted

¹Praise the LORD!
For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.
²**The LORD builds up Je- | rusalem;***
he gathers the outcasts of | Israel.
³He heals the broken- | hearted*
and binds | up their wounds.
⁴**He determines the number | of the stars;***
he gives to all of | them their names.
⁵Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.
⁶**The LORD lifts up the | humble;***
he casts the wicked | to the ground.
⁷Sing to the LORD with thanks- | giving;*
make melody to our God | on the lyre!
⁸**He covers the heavens with clouds;**
he prepares rain | for the earth;*
he makes grass grow | on the hills.
⁹He gives to the | beasts their food,*

and to the young ravens | that cry.
¹⁰His delight is not in the strength | of the horse,*
 nor his pleasure in the legs | of a man,
¹¹but the LORD takes pleasure in those who | fear him,*
 in those who hope in his | steadfast love.

Epistle

1 John 3:1-3

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 16:16-22

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Your Sorrow Will Turn into Joy

¹⁶[Jesus said:] "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷So 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'?" ¹⁸So 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’? ²⁰Truly, 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. ²¹When 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. ²²So 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

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

Sit

Hymn of the Day

475 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice and sing! Now is the tri-umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to
3 Praise we in songs of vic-to-ry That love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris-en Lord, And sing to-day with



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
strew His way; Let all the world re-joice and say:
can-not die, And sing with hearts up-lift-ed high:
one ac-cord The life laid down, the life re-stored:



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615

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Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Prayer of the Church

The proper response is "Hear our prayer."

- P** We thank You, our heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ Your dear Son, that You have kept us this night from harm and danger; and we pray that You would keep us this day also from sin and every evil, that all our doings and lives may please You. For into Your hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls and all things. Let Your holy angels be with us, that the evil foe may have no power over us. Lord in Your mercy...
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** 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 take them to heart that, by patience and comfort of Your holy word, we may embrace and remain faithful to the blessed hope of everlasting life. Lord in your mercy...
- P** God of love, through Your Son You have commanded us to Love one another. By the guidance of Your word and the Holy Spirit, deliver us from unrepentant hearts and teach us the truth that we might confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and be reconciled to one another. Lord in Your mercy...
- P** Lord keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve You faithfully in our generation. Lord in Your mercy...
- P** Most gracious God, when you created all things and set the world into motion, you blessed all humanity with the gift of motherhood. We are fearfully and wonderfully made in our mother's wombs, and are fed, comforted and protected by the love they provide after we are born. Cause us to appreciate the daily bread you provide through the gift of mothers, and give thanks for their life sustaining presence in our lives. Lord in your mercy...
- P** O Father of mercies, You are the God of all comfort and our only help in time of need. Look with favor upon Your servants, especially *Alice, Beth, Carmen, Cynthia, Dalton, Debra, Deneice and her family, Gary, Gloria, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marie, Marion and her family, Royce, Sabrina, Timothy, and William*. Assure them of Your mercy, deliver them from the temptations of the evil one, and give them patience and comfort in their distress. Lord in Your mercy...
- P** Into Your hands we commend all things to You, the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177



P The Lord be with you.

C And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My **✝** body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My **✝** blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

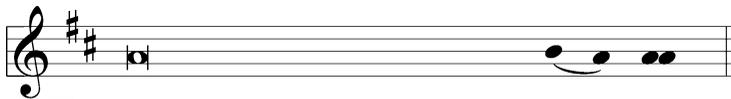
Lord's Prayer

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 180



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



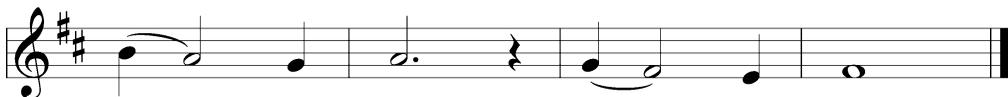
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

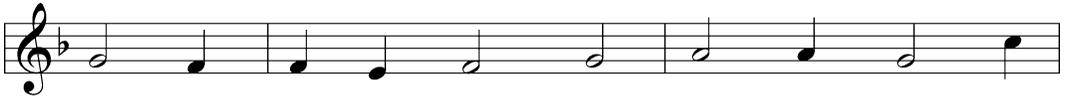
Distribution

Distribution Hymn

623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray That we may
2 Give us, who share this won - drous food, Your bod - y
3 By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the
4 One bread, one cup, one bod - y, we, Re - joic - ing
5 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray: O keep us



feast on You to - day; Be - neath these forms of
bro - ken and Your blood, The grate - ful peace of
gift of love re - told; All that You are we
in our u - ni - ty, Pro - claim Your love un -
stead - fast till that day When each will be Your



bread and wine En - rich us with Your grace di - vine.
sins for - giv'n, The cer - tain joys of heirs of heav'n.
here re - ceive, And all we are to You we give.
til You come To bring Your scat - tered loved ones home.
wel - comed guest In heav - en's high and ho - ly feast.

Distribution Hymn

632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -



ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928

Distribution Hymn

588 Jesus Loves Me



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 181



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-

es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 183

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 ✠ give you peace.

C A - men.



Hymn to Depart

466 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear!
 4 "Go spread the news: He's not in the grave;
 5 Christ has a - ris - en; He sets us free;



Re - joice and praise Him, al - le - lu - ia.
 Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.
 He has a - ris - en this world to save.
 Al - le - lu - ia, to Him prais - es be.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
 He who gives life did death un - der - go;
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare;
 Je - sus' re - deem - ing la - bors are done;
 Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 And in its con - quest His might did show.
 On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there."
 E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won."
 He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Refrain



Let us sing praise to Him with end - less joy;



Death's fear - ful sting He has come to de - stroy.

Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, 1922–2010
 Tune: Tanzanian
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Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings

Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

Acknowledgments

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✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

Announcements

- + Last Sunday's Attendance: 43**
- + This Sunday's Greeters:** Royce & Norm Morton
Next Sunday's Greeters: Marlene Wood & Stephanie Cram
- + Altar Guild Set Up:** May 8th Marie
 May 15th Maurine
Cleanup for May: Stephanie & Gayle (Onja & Sydney)
- + Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful, hardworking mothers!**
- + Join us for worship on May 26th for an evening Ascension service at 7pm.**
- + Thank you to everyone who made last Sunday's celebration and dedication a wonderful success!**
- + Thank you to all who purchased an Easter Lily to help decorate the church for Easter!**
 You are welcome to take home your lily today or leave it as decoration for a few weeks.

May Birthday Celebration

Lynette Hurd May 9th

Norm Morton May 11th

Jay Rogers May 19th

Leon Tarr May 20th

Stephanie Cram May 29th

Synod Sentences for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

Those Who Wait on the Lord Shall Rejoice

The people of God are pilgrims and sojourners in this world, looking ahead to a destination yet to come (1 Peter 2:11–20). Though we are now children of God, the fullness of what we shall be has not yet been revealed (1 John 3:1–3). We are those who wait on the Lord. *“The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him”* (Lam. 3:25). Jesus tells us that the wait is just a little while. *“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me”* (John 16:16). Though you must experience sorrow for a time, though you must live as strangers in a world that is at enmity with Christ, yet your sorrow will be turned to joy when He returns. *“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength”* (Is. 40:31). The little while of weeping shall be replaced with an eternity of rejoicing in the presence of Christ the crucified and risen Savior. *“And no one will take your joy from you”* (John 16:22).

A Prayer For The Week

Lord God, heavenly Father, of Your fatherly goodness You allow Your children to come under Your chastening rod here on earth, that we might be like Your only-begotten Son in suffering and hereafter in glory: We beseech You, comfort us by Your Holy Spirit in all temptations and afflictions, that we may not fall into despair, but that we may continually trust in Your Son’s promise, that our trials will endure but a little while, and will then be followed by eternal joy; that we thus, in patient hope, may overcome all evil, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

Lutheran’s For Life Quotes for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

The joy that comes from the risen Christ cannot be taken away (John 16:22). This is not a feel-good happiness dependent upon circumstances. It is a fruit of Christ’s Spirit, the joy of our salvation in Christ that circumstances cannot change or diminish. Many of the life issues we deal with today are “joy robbers” and present opportunities to share the joy of the resurrection. *Gracious Savior, fill my words with the comfort and hope of resurrection to everlasting life with You. Amen.*

An Excerpt from Martin Luther's Sermons

“‘A little while,’ He says, ‘and ye behold Me no more,’ for I shall be taken prisoner and they shall deliver Me to death. But it will not last long, and during this short time ye shall be sorrowful, but only remain steadfast in Me and follow Me. It will soon have an end. Three days I will be in the grave; then the world will rejoice as though it had gained a victory, but ye shall be sorrowful and shall weep and lament. ‘And again a little while, and ye shall see Me; and, because I go to the Father.’ That is, on the third day I will rise again; then ye shall rejoice and your joy no man shall take from you, and this will not be a joy of only three days, like the joy of the world, but an eternal joy. Thus the Evangelist John most beautifully expresses the death and resurrection of Christ in these words, when Christ says, ‘A little while, and ye behold Me not; and again a little while, and ye shall see Me; and, because I go to the Father.’” *From Martin Luther's Sermon in the Church Postil for Jubilate Sunday.*

A Snippet From 1517

We also have reasons to grieve, and it should not be hard to think of causes for sorrow in your congregation. But, because of the Resurrection, we do not grieve as those without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Our joy is a gift here and now, but it will not be complete until Jesus' return.

The disciples had good reason to be filled with sorrow at Jesus' death. Not only did they lose a friend and teacher, but one in whom they had placed their hopes for eternal life (recall John 6:68). We also have reasons to grieve, and it should not be hard to think of causes for sorrow in your congregation. But, because of the Resurrection, we do not grieve as those without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Our joy is a gift here and now, but it will not be complete until Jesus' return. The promise of His return, which you can (and should) proclaim clearly and forcefully, will direct your hearers to the coming Kingdom of God. This promise will sustain them and give them reason for humble rejoicing even here and now.