



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Daniel Bohlken, Visiting Pastor

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

OUR WORSHIP
Not of This World

SERVICE THEME It is important to understand the radical change that has happened to us through our encounter with Jesus. Something has happened to us; the very life of heaven has entered us, and our relationship to the world and anyone who has not had an encounter with Jesus is made very different.

+ Preparing Ourselves to Hear God's Word +

INVOCATION

Pastor: In our Baptism into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we have been born from above and have become citizens of an eternal kingdom, not of this world.

People: Amen!

INVITATION HYMN *LSB 465, vv. 1 & 2 – “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”*

Now the vault of heav'n resounds In praise of love that still abounds:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here:

“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift He brings, Therefore our heart with rapture sings:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Now still He comes to give us Life And by His presence stills all strife.

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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CONFESSION

Pastor: Jesus says, “If you were of the world, the world would love you; but because you are not of the world, the world hates you.” We seldom understand that the Life of heaven has entered into us and, because of the greatness that has entered us, we have a new perspective on ourselves, on others, on this world.

People: Father, have mercy on us!

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

Pastor: In Christ Jesus, we are now citizens of heaven, in which we continually experience unconditional love, unlimited acceptance, and forever forgiveness. This dramatically changes the way we feel and think about

ourselves, the way we feel and think about others, and the way we feel and think about the world.

SONG OF REJOICING LSB 465, vv. 3 & 4

**O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day That by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Adoring praises now we bring And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father and our Lord, To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Father, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, help us to understand and to live out the radical change in our nature that has happened to us through Jesus' sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. And, in that Spirit-given understanding, enable us to serve and witness to You, Your Son, and the Holy Spirit by serving others with a selfless and out-of-this-world love. We ask in the name of Christ Jesus.

People: Amen.

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+ Hearing God's Word +

PSALM READING Psalm 73:2-5, 16-17, 19, 23-26

Pastor : As for me, my feet came close to stumbling,

People: My steps had almost slipped.

Pastor: For I was envious of the arrogant

People: As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Pastor: For there are no pains in their death,

People: And their belly is fat.

Pastor: They are not in trouble like other people,

People: Nor are they tormented together with the rest of mankind.

Pastor: When I thought of understanding this,

People: It was troublesome in my sight

Pastor: Until I entered the sanctuary of God;

People: Then I perceived their end.

Pastor: Nevertheless, I am continually with You;

People: You have taken hold of my right hand.

Pastor: You will guide me with Your plan,

People: And afterward receive me to glory.

Pastor: Whom do I have in heaven but You?

People: And with You, I desire nothing on earth.

Pastor: My flesh and my heart may fail,

People: But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Amen!

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 24:9-11 (NASB)*

⁹ Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, ¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel; and under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. ¹¹ Yet He did not reach out with His hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel; and they saw God, and they ate and drank.

EPISTLE READING *Colossians 3:1-4 (NASB)*

¹ Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our Life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

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Pastor: These Readings are from God's holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING John 15:18-25

Pastor: The holy Gospel is recorded in the Gospel of John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, the fifteenth chapter:

People: Glory be to You, Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth.

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well; if they followed My word, they will follow yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of My name, because they do not know the One who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ The one who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not

done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. ²⁵ But this has happened so that the word that is written in their Law will be fulfilled: ‘They hated Me for no reason’” (Psa. 35:19).

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our living, Life-giving, and in-dwelling Lord.

People: Praise without end be to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE *“Out of This World”*

SONG OF THE DAY TLH 477 – *“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heav’n voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise.
He who on the cross a victim For the world’s salvation bled –
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, Now is risen from the dead.**

**Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient pow’rs of evil In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.**

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**Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!**

MESSAGE *“Radical Change – Radical Conflict – Radical Challenge”*

Introduction

Jesus speaks of a radical conflict precipitated by a radical change leading to a radical challenge.

Radical Change

Christianity is a radical change of our nature.

Radical Conflict

Because our nature has been radically changed, radical conflict results.

Radical Challenge

The radical change in our nature that produces radical conflict engages in a radical challenge.

+ Response to the Word +

OFFERING *LSB 480, vv. 1, 3, 5 – “He’s Risen, He’s Risen”*

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

**But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.**

**Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.**

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PRAYER & THE 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.**

+ The Lord’s Supper – the Visible Word +

PREFACE

Pastor: I now ask you: Are we coming to Jesus’ Supper because we are worthy
and deserve it or because we are unworthy and need His presence and
forgiveness in our lives always – which we never can really deserve?
Jesus Himself says: “They that be whole, need not a physician, but they
that be sick;” that is, those who are weary and heavy-laden with their
sins, with the fear of death, temptations of the flesh and of the devil. If,
therefore, you are heavy-laden and feel your weakness, then let us go
joyfully to this Sacrament and obtain refreshment, consolation, and
strength. [from Luther’s *Large Catechism*]

JESUS’ WORDS

LAMB OF GOD *LSB 463, vv. 1-3 – “Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia”*

Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Al – le - lu – ia!

Christians, hasten on your way; Al – le - lu – ia!
Offer praise with love replete, Al – le - lu – ia!
At the paschal victim's feet. Al – le - lu – ia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al – le - lu – ia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Al – le - lu – ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al – le - lu – ia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Al – le - lu – ia!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Al – le - lu – ia!
God and sinners reconciled, Al – le - lu – ia!
When contending death and life, Al – le - lu – ia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Al – le - lu – ia!

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DISTRIBUTION LSB 461 – “*I Know That My Redeemer Lives*”

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: We give You thanks, Father, that Your Son has received us at His Table – unworthy though we are, and graced us with His presence, giving us personal and powerful assurance that we are truly and fully forgiven for all our sins – past, present, and future. Enable us to go from this Supper and this Service with our faith strengthened and our lives renewed with a desire to care about and serve others with their physical as well as their spiritual needs. We ask in the Name of Jesus, our Savior, the Same who is God and Lord and who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit on our behalf, now and forever.

People: Amen! May it be so!

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG LSB 467, vv. 1, 5-7 – “*Awake, My Heart, with Gladness*”

Awake, my heart, with gladness, See what today has done;
Now, after gloom and sadness, Comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid Where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light Our Spirit wings its flight.

The world against me rages, Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages, Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free, No trouble troubles me.

Misfortune now is play, and night is bright as day.

**Now I cling forever To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave ne never, Whate'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;
He shatters hell's grim thrall; I follow Him through all.**

**He brings me to the portal That leads to bliss untold.
Whereon this rhyme immortal Is found in script of gold:
"Who there My cross has shared Finds here a crown prepared;
Who there with Me has died Shall here be glorified."**