

THE
JOY
OF
THE
LORD
IS MY
strength
NEHEMIAH 8:10

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

OUR WORSHIP

Joy

SERVICE THEME Joy is much sought after in all times and in all places. For this reason, in our day, countless books and many self-help seminars offer the *secret* to finding and experiencing joy. Unfortunately, they all fall short of offering a joy that is a forever joy and a fierce-able-to-endure-anything joy.

+ Preparing Ourselves to Hear God's Word +

INVOCATION

Leader: We begin by remembering we have been Baptized *into* the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In our Baptism, we have been buried with Christ, dying to our sinful nature, and we have been raised with Him to a new nature that lives out newness of LIFE.

People: AMEN!

TRINITARIAN HYMN *LSB 805 – "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CONFESSION

Leader: We often equate joy with happiness with the consequence that we are neither consistently happy nor do we experience constant joy.

People: LORD, have mercy upon us! Christ, have mercy upon us!

ABSOLUTION

Leader: We find true unending joy where we would least expect it: at the cross where the Christ suffered and in our own experiences of suffering. This joy comes to us when we realize that our heavenly Father forgives, accepts, and loves us for Christ's and His cross' sake; but, also because within that forgiveness, love, and acceptance we are convinced God has a plan for our lives today, tomorrow, and forever.

HYMN OF RESPONSE *LSB 948 – “All Glory Be to God Alone”*

**All glory be to God alone, Forevermore the highest One,
Who did our sinful race befriend And grace and peace to us extend.
Among us may His gracious will All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.**

**We praise You, God, Your name we bless And worship You in humbleness;
From day to day we glorify The everlasting God on high.
Of Your great glory do we sing, And to the throne our thanks we bring.**

**Lord God, our King on heaven's throne, Our Father, the Almighty One.
O Lord, the sole-begotten One, Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,
True God from all eternity. O Lamb of God, to You we flee.**

**You take the whole world's sin away; Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
You take the whole world's sin away; O Lord, receive our prayer this day,
From God's right hand Your mercy send,
To all the world Your grace extend.**

**You only are the Holy One And over all are Lord alone.
O Jesus Christ, we glorify You and the Spirit, Lord Most High;
With Him You evermore shall be One in the Father's majesty.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Father, send Your Holy Spirit to convince us that Your undeserved love, Your unlimited acceptance, and Your forever forgiveness in Christ Jesus and His cross also assure us that You, Your Spirit, and Christ's presence will never leave or forsake us; but, that even in our darkest moments, You are accomplishing something great for the sake of Your glory. We ask in the name of Jesus, Your only Son, our gracious Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

People. Amen!

+ Hearing God's Word +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Psalm 98:3-9a [NASB]*

Leader: Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;

People Be cheerful and sing for joy and sing praises.

Leader: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,

People: With the lyre and the sound of melody.

Leader: With trumpets and the sound of the horn

People: Shout joyfully before the King, the LORD.

Leader: May the sea roar and all it contains,

People: The world and those who dwell in it.

Leader: May the rivers clap their hands,

People: May the mountains sing together for joy before the LORD.

ALL: GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND FOREVER WILL BE. AMEN!

EPISTLE READING *1 Peter 1:3-7 [NASB]*

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Leader: These Readings are the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING *John 16:19b-22 [NASB]*

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord

^{19b}He [Jesus] said to them [His disciples], "Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, 'A little while, and you are not going to see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me'?" ²⁰Truly, truly I say to you that you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy!

²¹ Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world. ²² Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one is going to take your joy away from you.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the LORD.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE HYMN LSB 803 – *“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

**Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav’n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well - spring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav’n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!**

MESSAGE *“Everlasting and Enduring Joy”*

Introduction

Three brief introductory remarks: [1] Everybody wants joy. [2] Most equate joy with happiness. [3] The acronym J – O – Y has fleeting success.

A Woman Giving Birth

“She no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born.”

The Disciples’ Experience

“You will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy.”

Some Tough Questions

Can pain be made tolerable because of consequent joy?

Can we be joyful in pain if pain’s purpose is joy?

Is pain necessary if we are to have real joy?

Conclusion

“Joy is the deep settled confidence that God is in control.”

+ Our Response to God’s Word +

OFFERING *LSB 387 – “Joy to the World”*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room
And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

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

Leader: Christ 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 you are heavy-laden and feel your weakness, then go joyfully to this Sacrament and obtain refreshment, consolation, and strength. If you would wait until you are rid of such burdens, that you might come to the Sacrament pure and worthy, you must forever stay away. For in that case He pronounces sentence and says: If you are pure and godly, you have no need of Me, and I, in turn, none of thee. Therefore, those alone are called unworthy who neither feel their infirmities nor wish to be considered sinners.

[Luther, *The Large Catechism*]

LAMB OF GOD *LSB 567, vv. 1-3 – “Not What These Hands Have Done”*

**Not what these hands have done
Can save this guilty soul;
Not what this toiling flesh has borne
Can make my spirit whole.**

**Not what I feel or do
Can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears
Can bear the awful load.**

**Thy work alone, O Christ,
Can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,
Can give me peace within.**

DISTRIBUTION *LSB 801 816 821*

COMMUNION BLESSING

Leader: May our reception of our Lord Jesus Christ's crucified body and His shed blood, by means of which we have participated in His death and have received personal and individual assurance that He died for each and every one of us, strengthen and preserve us in our faith as well as in our life now and forever.

People: Amen!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Dear Father, in loving-kindness You sent Your Son into our world in the flesh; therefore, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon, peace, and perfect righteousness in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake us but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled to constantly serve You by serving and loving others; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen!

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the Lord bless and keep you;

May the Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you;

May the Lord lift up His countenance on you and + give you peace.

People: Amen!

SENDING SONG *LSB 818 – “In Thee is Gladness”*

**In Thee is gladness, Amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.**

**By Thee are given Tje gifts of heaven,
Thou the true Redeemer art.**

**Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trusts Thee surely Has built securely;
He stands forever; Alleluia!**

**Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining,
Dying or living To Thee are cleaving;
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!**

**Since He is ours, We fear no powers,
Not of earth nor sin nor death.**

**He sees and blesses In worst distresses;
He can change them with a breath.**

**Wherefore the story Tell of His glory
With hearts and voices; All heav’n rejoices
In Him forever; Alleluia!**

**We shout for gladness, Triumph o’er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!**

