

FAITH IN THE WORD

For the week of The Resurrection of our Lord, Easter Sunday
March 31 – April 6, AD 2024

Too often the inexpressible joy of Christ's resurrection on that first Easter is overshadowed with trivial (though fun) things like bunnies and eggs. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, who three days before had cried out, "My God! My God, why have you forsaken Me? It is finished!" literally changes our entire existence. Death and eternal judgment have been left completely powerless. True. We do see their work all around us. There is homelessness, death, war, disease. There are angry words and covetous thoughts. God's Word is despised and ignored. Christians are persecuted. Churches are shrinking. But none of that actually tells us anything other than the fact that we are still waiting for Christ to complete our salvation by returning for judgment. You, dear Christian, baptized into Christ Jesus, have absolutely nothing to fear in this life. Christ has saved you. He has promised that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION can separate you from the love which He has poured out on the cross. You belong to Christ. You are free from the need to fear the devil's lies and scheming and treachery. You see them for what they are and you know their end. They will perish. But you, child of God, are and always will be with Christ. Praise be to Jesus!

The Catechism

As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to the household. Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Creed

Second Article – Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,

Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

THE ORDER OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER

INVOCATION

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

Romans 8:28 – *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

Psalm 33

HYMN OF THE MONTH

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain” (LSB 487)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSwV_vFZtk4

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

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| ① SUNDAY | MARK 16:1-8 | |
| ② MONDAY | LUKE 24:13-35 | 1 PETER 1:17-25 |
| ③ TUESDAY | LUKE 24:36-49 | ACTS 2:14a, 36-41 |
| ④ WEDNESDAY | JOHN 21:1-14 | ACTS 3:13-15, 17-19 |
| ⑤ THURSDAY | JOHN 21:15-25 | COLOSSIANS 3:1-7 |
| ⑥ FRIDAY | EXODUS 15:1-18 | 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-58 |
| ⑦ SATURDAY | EZEKIEL 37:1-14 | 1 JOHN 5:4-10 |

PRAYERS

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

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.

DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER

SUNDAY: *The joy of the resurrection among us; true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word; for our congregation's faithfulness to the Word of God.*

MONDAY: *Faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; our calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; government; peace; for the leaders of our congregation.*

TUESDAY: *Deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*

WEDNESDAY: *For marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; parents who must rear their children alone; for godly schools, our church schools, and seminaries.*

THURSDAY: *For the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; for our congregation, our pastor and his family.*

FRIDAY: *For the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

SATURDAY: *For faithfulness to the end; the physically and mentally sick and those who are dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

- Those serving in synodical offices, especially Matthew Harrison, Synodical President; Michael Newman, Texas District President; Scott Sundbye, Circuit Visitor, and Ben Gonzales, Mission Strategist
- Dony Reaves as he recovers from surgery and prepares for a procedure to help with his migraines
- Aimee Hendon and her family as they struggle with serious life issues
- Devon Jackson, friend of Gil Daughtrey, whose cancer has returned
- Jim Graff as he prepares for his stem cell transplant in April
- Baptismal Birthdays: Joanna Gefaller (March 31), Norah Gefaller (April 2), Benjamin Schwiesow (4), Cheryl Wildauer (6)
- Leah Savage and Rebekah Burns for protection of mother and child in pregnancy
- Alissa Ulmer, Doug Drawe, Ethan Sims, Mary Hart, Christina Null, Jim Graff, Mark Traugott



THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

Catechism: Table of Duties – Of Civil Government: Romans 13:1-4

Quasimodo Geniti – The Second Sunday of Easter, – April 7, 2024

Hymns: 457, 470, 461, 618, 482, page 155, 475

Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14, 1 John 5:4-10, John 20:19-31

