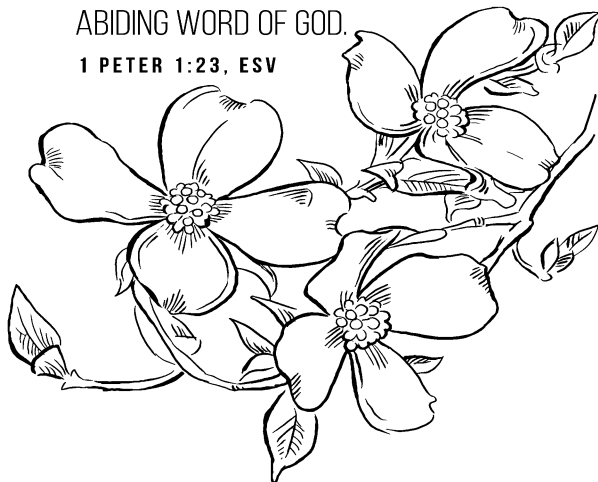


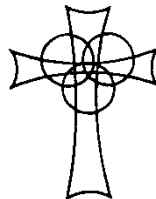
*You have been
born again...*

THROUGH THE LIVING AND
ABIDING WORD OF GOD.

1 PETER 1:23, ESV



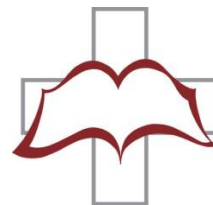
*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
30th Street and Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712*



The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor
Church Office Phone: 301-864-4340
Church Web Site: www.tlcmr.org

*A Member Congregation of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

**Midweek Devotions and Bible Study
Wednesday in the Third Week of Easter
April 21, 2021**



Service of the Word in Eastertide

✠ *Christ Jesus, Victor! Christ Jesus, Ruler! Christ Jesus, Lord and Redeemer!* ✠

The Opening Versicles:

Psalms 51:15, 70:1, 139:7 and Liturgical Text

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
- P** If I ascend to heaven, You are there!
C If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there!
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.
- P** In Your resurrection, O Christ,
C let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia!

- P** ¹Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!
- C** ²**O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?**
- P** ³But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.
- C** ⁴**Be angry, and do not sin;
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.**
- P** ⁵Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.
- C** ⁶**There are many who say, “Who will show us some good?
Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!”**
- P** ⁷You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.
- C** ⁸**In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

¹³Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” ¹⁷And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴for

“All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
²⁵but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

^{2:1}So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Scripture Study for the Day

Baptized...Now We Live
A Study of 1 Peter

Study 2: Who Do We Live For?

1. Peter calls on his hearers to prepare their minds for action. What are we preparing ourselves for? And are we really the ones doing the preparing? (vs. 13)
2. What is the “ignorance” that Peter speaks of in verse 14? What does ignorance lead us to do?
3. Peter quotes the Old Testament where God says, “Be holy, for I am holy” (Leviticus 11:44). Sometimes this verse is used to preach the Law and remind us that we can never be as holy as God. But is that really why Peter uses this verse? What is Peter trying to remind his hearers?

4. We are to live our lives in view of God's judgment. Sometimes we are hesitate to speak like that, for we know that we have been cleansed by Christ's blood; we have nothing to fear in the judgement for we will be judged on the basis of His works, not ours. But the Bible writers often speak of God judging us in view of our works. How should we understand Peter's encouragement to us serve the Lord because He will judge our works? (vs. 17)

5. Recall that many Christians in Peter's day were being pressured by the Jews around them to convert back to Judaism. How do we interpret Peter's words in verses 18-19 in light of this?

6. How do verses 18-21 make it clear that we are not saved by our own works?

7. Who is it who does the purifying of our souls? How is this connected to the "obedience to the truth"? What is the fruit of both of these things? (vss. 22-23 and 2:1)

8. What is the source of our new birth and what sustains this new life in us? (vss. 24-25)

9. What should God's Word be for us? Why does Peter call on us to be "newborn infants" with regards to God's Word? (2:2-3)

The Prayers:

P On this day that the Lord has made, let us pray for all the people He has redeemed.

Let us pray that we may live as those who believe in the triumph of Christ's cross:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us pray that all people everywhere may receive the Good News of His victory:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us pray that all those born to new life in the waters of Baptism may know the power of the Lord's resurrection:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us pray that those who suffer any pain or anguish may find healing and peace in the risen wounds of Christ:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us rejoice in the lives of all of God's saints, and let us pray that in the undying love of Christ we may be at last united with all who have died in the faith of Christ in the joys of God's eternal kingdom:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us commend the world, for which Christ died and rose again from the dead, to the mercy and protection of God as we offer to Him our prayers, either silently or aloud.

Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer:

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.**

The Collect of the Day:

- P** Let us pray.
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.
- C** Amen.

The Collect for the Easter Season:

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

The Collect for Peace:

- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

The Closing Prayer:

after Richard of Chichester (1253)

- P** Together, we pray:
C **Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You**
 for all the benefits that You have won for us,
 for all the pains and insults that You bore for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
 may we know You more clearly,
 love You more dearly,
 and follow You more nearly,
 day by day.
Amen.

The Benediction:

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** Amen.

Acknowledgments

Brief Service of the Word from Lutheran Service Book Agenda and from Common Worship: Daily Prayer.

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