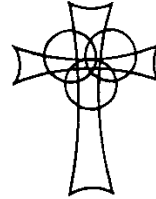


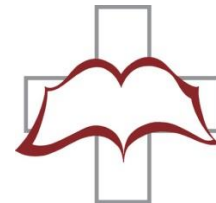
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**Midweek Devotions and Bible Study
Wednesday in the Sixth Week of Easter
The Eve of the Ascension of Our Lord
May 12, 2021**



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** ¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
- C** ²**The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- P** ³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
- C** ⁴**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**
- P** ⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!
- C** ⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**
- P** ⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!
- C** ⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together**
- P** ⁹before the LORD, for he comes
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.
- 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.**

⁸Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰For

“Whoever desires to love life
and see good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;
¹¹let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.

¹²For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

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 5: What Does this Baptized Life Look Like in the Community of Believers?

1. According to Peter in verse 8, what are the qualities that should mark the Christian community? Are they always present? Yet, when they are present, what do these qualities contribute to our lives as God’s people?

2. We are a blessed people who are called to bless. What is the blessing we have received? What is the blessing we are called to give?

3. How do verses 13 and 14 put the matter of happiness and blessedness in a Christian perspective, as opposed to the perspective of the world?

4. Peter reminds us that one great blessing that can result from persecution is the opportunity to share the reason for the hope that we have (verse 15). Why are we to do so “with gentleness and respect”?

5. How did Christ suffer for doing good? (verse 17) How does His suffering serve as an example for us?

6. Peter compares the waters of the flood with the waters of Baptism (verse 20). How does this image remind us of the way that God saves His own?

7. What does it mean that Baptism is an “appeal to God for a good conscience”? (verse 21)

8. Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. How are these three acts in Jesus’ life connected to Baptism? What do they mean for our baptized life? What do they mean for our future?

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, the Giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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 Collect for the Ascension of Our Lord:

- P** Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns, God 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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