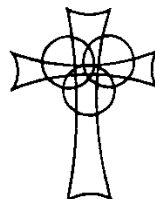


LIVE ... FOR THE WILL OF GOD.
1 P E T E R 4 : 2

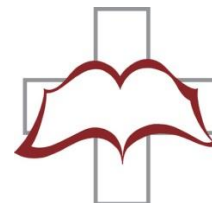
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*A Member Congregation of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

Midweek Devotions and Bible Study
Wednesday in the Seventh Week of Easter
May 19, 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** ¹Blessèd is the man
 who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
 nor stands in the way of sinners,
 nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
- C** ²**but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and on his law he meditates day and night.**
- P** ³He is like a tree
 planted by streams of water
 that yields its fruit in its season,
 and its leaf does not wither.
 In all that he does, he prospers.
- C** ⁴**The wicked are not so,
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**
- P** ⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
- C** ⁶**for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.**
- 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.**

¹Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. ³The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share

Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing 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 6: Baptized Living in the Last Days

1. Why is it true that the person “whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin”? (verses 1-2)
2. Why do unbelievers think it strange that we do not join in with them? Why do they heap abuse on Christians for what Christians are doing? (verses 3-4)
3. In verses 7-11, Peter gives instructions on how we are to live as children of God. What does he have to say about the following:

Prayer

Love

Hospitality

Spiritual Gifts

Teaching

Service

God's glory

4. Why are Christians sometimes surprised when they are called on to suffer? Why shouldn't we consider it a surprise that we suffer?

5. What reasons do we have to rejoice when we are called to suffer? (verse 13)

6. What blessings do we have from God when we are called to suffer?

7. If we are not suffering, what should we never do? If we are suffering, what should we do?

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 King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him 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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