



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

April 14th, 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter

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A Service of Worship and Praise

-We Gather as God's People to Worship Him-

Opening Hymn: B288 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

PLEASE STAND

Minister says: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation says: And also with you.

-Introduction to Worship-

M: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

C: Your mercies are new every morning.

M: Guide our steps by the light of your word.

C: Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

M: Better than life is your love.

C: Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Alleluia!

-We Prepare Our Hearts-

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I know that I have been sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Forgive my sins and change my life.

We sing: *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always living in me!

M: Jesus says to His people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, it is my privilege to declare to you that your sins are forgiven. You are a dear child of God. Let's praise His name.

We sing: *No Other Name But the Name of Jesus*

Chorus: No other name, but the name of Jesus
No other name, but the name of the Lord
No other name but the name of Jesus
Is worthy of glory, And worthy of honor
And worthy of power and all praise!

His name is exalted far above the earth;
His name is high above the heavens.
His name is exalted far above the earth;
Give glory and honor and praise unto His name.

Chorus

-We Pray Together-

M: I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?

C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

M: He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber

C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

M: The LORD will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life.

C: The LORD will watch over my coming and going, both now and forevermore. AMEN.

BE SEATED

-We Listen to God's Word-

FIRST LESSON: Acts 3:11-20

¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷ "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

We Sing: *Thy Word*

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my way
Still, You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near
Please be with me to the end.

Refrain

I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON: *1 John 1:5-2:2*

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON: *Luke 24:36-49*

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and

repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

BE SEATED

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: R160 *This Joyful Eastertide*

Sermon: *May Times of Refreshing Come from the Lord*

Acts 3:11-20

PLEASE STAND

Confession of Faith: *Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

AMEN

BE SEATED

Offering: R440 *On Eagles' Wings*

Prayers: *The Lord's Prayer*

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: AMEN

Closing Hymn: B289 *Jesus Shall Reign*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89831357274>

Join us for Bible Class. Wednesdays. 7 pm.

<u>Serving at Col:</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Music	Katherine, Elijah	Karis, Elijah
Ushers	Keith, Lee	Bob, Mike
Reader		<i>This Could Be You</i>
Altar		<i>This Could Be You</i>
Refreshments	Linda	<i>This Could Be You</i>
Cleaning	Karis	<i>This Could Be You</i>
Mowing	Karis	<i>This Could Be You</i>

CALENDAR

Wednesday	7:00 PM Bible Class https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89831357274
Thursday	10:30 AM Bible Class at Summerhouse, Slidell
Sunday	10 AM Bible Class, Sunday School; 11 AM Worship
Today	12:30 PM Church Council, Ladies Guild
Apr 20	8 AM Garage Sale
TBD	Crawfish Boil/Seafood Feast
Jun 2	Confirmation
Jun 25-28	International Youth Rally , Fort Collins, CO
Jul 22-26	Camp South , Covington, GA

Birthdays

Anniversaries

3 Jermar Theodore
 3 Damien Webb
 13 Rick Tallant
 13 Dale Jensen
 15 Seth Sternhagen
 17 Michelle Webb
 27 Bob Heier

MISSION NEWS

Resilient in the face of rejection

“Christianity is dying.” “Religion is a waste of time and money and energy.” “I will be blocking any further posts from you.”

Our church ran an advertisement on Facebook recently for our Lent sermon series. The quotes above are a sample of replies we got as people scrolled through their feeds and ran into our post. Encouraging, right?

You’ve probably heard similar things. Perhaps no one has said something like this to you when you’ve invited them to church. Usually, people are much more polite if you already have a relationship. But they may have thought it. “Who still cares about that ‘church’ stuff?”

When we see churches all over the country shrinking, and people reacting more and more negatively to our invitations, we can become discouraged. We might even get angry. We’re tempted to lash out at those who disparage our faith, whether online or in person.

But some people responded quite differently to our ad.

“God bless you at all times and all places.” “Thank you.” “Pray for me.”

God’s children, even in an age that seems less and less interested in the gospel, are known through our attitudes of peace, joy, and kindness. Your neighbors see Christ’s love reflected in you, which is a wondrous work of God’s Holy Spirit.

The early Christians faced similar rejection and persecution. Many people accused them of cannibalism (because they were “eating someone’s body and blood” in worship) or of conspiracy and sedition (because they claimed another Lord ruled over them).

Likewise, we may face rejection and scorn for what seems like unfair reasons. But in that, we're no different than our Lord. "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 'He himself bore our sins' in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness". 1 Peter 2:23-24

I've got an appointment on my calendar this week to stop by a new member's home; someone who's been ill recently and hasn't made it to worship in a couple weeks. Their reaction to Christianity? A text that made me smile. "I'm frustrated. I really want to get back to church."

This is going to sound obvious, but it's a truth I've had to remind myself of more than once during our church's restart project, "Don't look for encouragement in discouraging words." I found myself returning to those negative comments, reading them again and again, as if I expected a reply to suddenly occur to me that would absolutely flip their worldview on its head and convince them of the truth of the gospel. That won't happen!

Instead, find encouragement among your brothers and sisters in your church. Cling to one another. "The family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings," so let us "love each other deeply" (1 Peter 5:9 and 4:8). Love like that will stand out today, tomorrow, and always.

Written by Rev. Timothy Walsh, home missionary at [Grace of God Lutheran Church](#) in Dix Hills, N.Y.

