

ON THE EVENING OF THAT DAY, THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, THE DOORS BEING LOCKED WHERE THE DISCIPLES WERE FOR FEAR OF THE JEWS, JESUS CAME AND STOOD AMONG THEM AND SAID TO THEM, "PEACE BE WITH YOU." WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE SHOWED THEM HIS HANDS AND HIS SIDE. THEN THE DISCIPLES WERE GLAD WHEN THEY SAW THE LORD.

It was the evening of the first day of the week. Easter Sunday, the day of resurrection. Guess what the disciples were doing? Here's a hint: they were not together eating a delicious ham dinner. The disciples were together, behind locked doors, in fear. They were scared to death. And, why shouldn't they be? They had heard Mary's report, Peter had visited the grave and saw with his own eyes that it was empty, but the way they saw it was this: the Jews had arrested Jesus, tried Him, convicted Him of blasphemy, sentenced Him to death, and carried that sentence of death out by crucifixion on a cross at the hands of the Romans. Jesus is now dead and buried.

They were His friends, His followers. If they treated Jesus like this, what does this mean for them? They thought they would soon be arrested and killed. They were scared. This was a serious time for the disciples.

But, no fear, right, because on that first day of the week, behind locked doors, Jesus came and stands among them. Boy, they were glad to see Jesus, right? No, not really, no so much at first. There is a delay. Here they were behind locked doors in fear, and Jesus shows up and says, "Peace be with you." He shows them His hands and His side. Then they are glad to see Jesus.

Why? Why the delay? Think of everything they had gone through -- what they've seen and heard, what they've done and failed to do.

Thursday night, they celebrated the Passover. They reclined at table and recalled God's great act of salvation in the Exodus. But, Jesus ruined the party by telling them one of you will betray Me.

Following dinner, they went to the Mount of Olives and Jesus dropped this bomb, “You will all fall away because of Me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’” Peter, ever quick to trust in himself, cried, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” Jesus replied, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” Peter emphatically boasted, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you! ... And all the disciples said the same.”

After the Mount of Olives, it was off to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him and told them to watch and pray. Their idea of watching and praying was to fall fast asleep. Jesus had to wake them up to ask if they could not even watch and pray with Him one hour. Shortly after that, Judas shows up with a crowd armed with swords and clubs and they arrest Jesus and take Him away. And as they take Jesus away, the disciples flee. Each and everyone of them runs away from Jesus. Even Mr. I-will-never-deny you, even-if-I-have-to-die” flees. And by the time the rooster crows, Peter had denied Jesus not once, not twice, but three times, Jesus as Jesus said he would.

It was Jesus’ darkest hour. And, the disciples had failed Him at every turn. They betrayed Him, they denied Him, they ran away from Him.

It is obvious why they were not too glad when they first saw Jesus. You understand how they feel -- their shame; their guilt; their remorse -- because you’ve stood in their sandals.

At your Confirmation, you promised in that oath, “I will suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from the Lord Jesus Christ.” And you’ve tried, really tried to live that way, but so often, you fail and fall away. Its so easy to say “I will suffer all, even death, rather than fall away,” when its just you and Jesus. But then, someone else comes along and says, “I’ll give you love, affection, popularity, power, security, all you have to do is give up Jesus.” Sometimes, it’s really easy to give up Jesus.

It’s so easy to fall away when the crowd comes, even when they are not armed with swords and clubs, but with words, words that blaspheme Jesus, words that mock the Christian faith, words that say that the Bible is nothing but a bunch of fables and legends, myths not to be taken seriously, words that pick on Christianity and words that pick on you.

Then, it's easy to fall away from Jesus, especially when they can make your life miserable.

It's also very easy to deny Him. When they ask you if you know Jesus. It's so easy to say, "I don't even know the man" when the person asking you is so handsome, so rich, so popular and you would rather spend time with them than with Jesus.

We too, so often fail Jesus at every turn. We betray Him, deny Him, and run away from Him. We understand how the disciples felt. We don't always want Jesus around. He walks in, and what's He going to say to me? "Why did you do that? You said you would suffer all even death, rather than fall away, but you betrayed Me, you denied Me, you ran away from Me. And you know what I said about that? 'Whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven' (Mt 10)." Wow, that's scary!

But, look again what Jesus does when He shows up. Jesus comes and stands before them, and the first words out of His mouth are, "Peace be with you." And He shows them His hands and His side.

"Peace be with you". These are not words of condemnation, words of judgment, words that say to you that you are not good enough. These are words of absolution, words of pardon, words of forgiveness. And just so the disciples don't miss it that Easter evening, Jesus shows them His hands and His side, so they could see for themselves that He suffered and died for their betrayal, their denial, their running away. He shows them the very wounds that established peace between God and them, then they are glad to see Him.

Guess what Jesus is doing this morning? Here His disciples are gathered. Here, Jesus is standing in our midst. He is saying to us, "Peace be with you." He is showing us His hands and His side.

That's what He was doing at the font of your baptism. Jesus took those nail-scarred hands and gathered you to Himself, so that you died and rose to a new life in Jesus.

He stands among us in the words of absolution; in the reading & preaching of His Word; at His Table, where He feeds you with His body and

blood, that were given and shed for you on the cross, to make peace between God and you, to forgive you all your sins.

Here it is once again, the first day of the week, the day of resurrection. The disciples are gathered together. Jesus comes and stands in our midst. And what does He say? "Peace be with you." He shows you His hand and His side to show you that all of your betrayal, your denial, you running away are forgiven because He suffered and died for you. And that makes us glad to see Jesus.

In His holy name. Amen.

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Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

April 27, 2014



We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Romans 6:9; John 20:29b

DIVINE SERVICE

Setting One

Hymn of Invocation

471 (st. 1-5)

Confession & Absolution

p. 151

Introit

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk,
that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Seek the Lord and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

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.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk,
that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Kyrie

p. 152

This is the Feast

p. 155

Salutation & Collect

p. 156

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Acts 5:29-42 (ESV)

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Gradual

Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9 (ESV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, as was necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

“Alleluia”

p. 156

Holy Gospel: St. John 20:19-31 (ESV)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, *“Peace be with you.”*

When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.”* And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, *“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”*

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, *“We have seen the Lord.”* But he said to them, *“Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe.”*

Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "*Peace be with you.*" Then He said to Thomas, "*Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.*" Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "*Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*"

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

Nicene Creed	p. 158
Hymn of the Day	# 471 (st. 6-9)
Sermon	THEN They Were Glad

Prayer of the Church

Offering

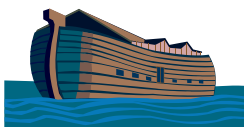
During the gathering of our morning offerings, the Handchime Choir will ring "The Wonderful Cross".

"What Shall I Render"	p. 159
Service of the Sacrament	p. 160
Distribution Hymns	# 818, 741
"Thank the Lord"	p. 164
Post-Communion Collect	p. 166
Benediction	p. 166
Closing Hymn	# 917

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ's Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public witness that we are in complete agreement with the denomination's doctrinal teachings at whose altar we commune. Therefore, we ask that only communicant members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod commune with us. All guests are asked to talk to Rev. Heller before coming to the altar to receive the Sacrament.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Welcome to worship in this season of Easter as we gather to rejoice that Christ has overcome death and the grave and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15). Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon!

Noah And The Flood: Does the story of Noah and the Flood have any meaning for our faith and life today? What message does it send about how God chooses to use water?



Please join us for Bible class this morning as we begin a new Bible study of Genesis 6-9.

Please join us for a baby shower honoring Gretchen Grace Holder, the daughter of Ryan & Amanda Holder, this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to attend and welcome Gretchen into the family of Concordia.



The May Human Care Project is collecting pasta for Women's Action & Resource Center. Please place your items in the shelf unit in the entry way. Thank you.



The May calendar, Pray for us calendar, birthday and anniversary sheet and the March council minutes are in the black stacking trays in the social hall.

In our thoughts and prayers,

† Myrna Prawdzik (Marty Black's mother), Chris Reamer (Marty Black's sister), & Lorena Scheid;

† Jamey & Tracy Backus & Family, as they mourn the death of Tracy's father, Tom McLaughlin.



Stewardship of Offerings and Attendance

Worship: 263 Offerings: \$5,715.00

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." Jesus spends a lot of His time telling the disciples to not be afraid. Our fears constantly hem us in and prevent us from following the Lord's will. But there is no need to fear. Jesus has conquered. No fear can keep us locked up: we have been set free by Jesus for lives that declare His marvelous deeds.

We are the North Dakota District...

Today in Bottineau ND, Harold (Bud) and Avonne Gessner will receive special appreciation for their 22 years of service as chairmen of the North Dakota Orphan Grain Train. The Orphan Train is a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical and other needed items to people in 61 different countries including the USA. Later this year the ND OGT division in Bottineau will close its doors. For more information, go to ogt.org.

– President Baneck

† This Week at Concordia †

- Sunday 8:30 am Divine Service
 9:30 am Sunday School/Bible Class
 11:00 am *Worship @ Glen Ullin*
 2:00 pm Holder Baby Shower
 2:30 pm Pastor @ KRCC
- Tuesday 1:00 pm Topic Leaders
 2:00 pm Bible Class
- Wednesday 3:30 pm 1st Year Catechism
 7:00 pm Chime Practice
 7:30 pm Bell Practice
- Thursday 1:30 pm Vesper Guild
- Sunday 8:30 am Divine Service
 9:30 am Sunday School/Bible Class
 11:00 am *Worship @ Glen Ullin*

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM—12:30 PM

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