

**Martin Luther Chapel Lutheran Church, Pennsauken, NJ / 26 May 2019**

Church Time: Easter: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Easter

Color: White:

Divine Service: I

Introit: Psalms 55: 4, 16 - 18 antiphon: verse 22

First Reading: Acts 16: 9 - 15

Gradual: adapted Matthew 28: 7, Hebrews 2: 7; Psalm 8: 6

Psalm 67 antiphon: verse 3

Second Reading: Revelation 21: 9 – 14, 21 - 27

Verse: Romans 6: 9; John 16:33

Gospel: John 16: 23 - 33

**Hymn of the Day (HotD) 560 / Drawn To The Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed**

Opening Hymn: 671 / Sing With All The Saints In Glory

Sermon Hymn: 560 / Drawn To The Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

Distribution Hymn: 650 / Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

637 / Draw Near And Take The Body Of the LORD

673 / Jerusalem, My Happy Home

638 / Eat This Bread

663 / Rise, My Soul, To Watch And Pray

Closing Hymn: 660 / Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus

Acolyte: (Primary) Martin / (Alternate)

**Sermon Text: John 16: 23 – 33**

<sup>23</sup> In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**I Have Overcome the World**

<sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup> for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup> His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! <sup>30</sup> Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

**Footnotes:**

a. [John 16:27](#) Some manuscripts *from the Father*

<sup>22</sup> καὶ ὑμεῖς οὖν νῦν μὲν λύπην ἔχετε: πάλιν δὲ ὄψομαι ὑμᾶς, καὶ χαρήσεται ὑμῶν ἡ καρδία, καὶ τὴν χαρὰν ὑμῶν οὐδεὶς αἶρει ἀφ' ὑμῶν. <sup>23</sup> καὶ ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐμὲ οὐκ ἐρωτήσετε οὐδέν. ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἂν τι αἰτήσητε τὸν πατέρα ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί μου δώσει ὑμῖν. <sup>24</sup> ἕως ἄρτι οὐκ ἠτήσατε οὐδέν ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί μου: αἰτεῖτε καὶ λήμψεσθε, ἵνα ἡ χαρὰ ὑμῶν ᾗ πεπληρωμένη. <sup>25</sup> Ταῦτα ἐν παροιμίαις λελάληκα ὑμῖν: ἔρχεται ὥρα ὅτε οὐκέτι ἐν παροιμίαις λαλήσω ὑμῖν ἀλλὰ

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παρρησία περὶ τοῦ πατρὸς ἀπαγγεῶ ὑμῖν. <sup>26</sup>ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί μου αἰτήσεσθε, καὶ οὐ λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ἐγὼ ἐρωτήσω τὸν πατέρα περὶ ὑμῶν: <sup>27</sup>αὐτὸς γὰρ ὁ πατήρ φιλεῖ ὑμᾶς, ὅτι ὑμεῖς ἐμὲ πεφιλήκατε καὶ πεπιστεύκατε ὅτι ἐγὼ παρὰ [τοῦ] θεοῦ ἐξῆλθον. <sup>28</sup>ἐξῆλθον παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ ἐλήλυθα εἰς τὸν κόσμον: ἄλλιν ἀφήμι τὸν κόσμον καὶ πορεύομαι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα. <sup>29</sup>Λέγουσιν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ, Ἴδε νῦν ἐν παρρησίᾳ λαλεῖς, καὶ παροιμίαν οὐδεμίαν λέγεις. <sup>30</sup>νῦν οἶδαμεν ὅτι οἶδας πάντα καὶ οὐ χρεῖαν ἔχεις ἵνα τίς σε ἐρωτᾷ: ἐν τούτῳ πιστεύομεν ὅτι ἀπὸ θεοῦ ἐξῆλθες. <sup>31</sup>ἀπεκρίθη αὐτοῖς Ἰησοῦς, Ἄρτι πιστεύετε; <sup>32</sup>ἰδοὺ ἔρχεται ὥρα καὶ ἐλήλυθεν ἵνα σκορπισθῆτε ἕκαστος εἰς τὰ ἴδια κάμῃ μόνον ἀφῆτε: καὶ οὐκ εἰμὶ μόνος, ὅτι ὁ πατήρ μετ' ἐμοῦ ἐστίν. <sup>33</sup>ταῦτα λελάληκα ὑμῖν ἵνα ἐν ἐμοὶ εἰρήνην ἔχητε: ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ θλίψιν ἔχετε, ἀλλὰ θαρσεῖτε, ἐγὼ νενίκηκα τὸν κόσμον.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, our Advocate **bids us** to sit at His feet this morning



for He **speaks plainly, freely, and affectionately** to His disciples,

† those gathered on the night when He was betrayed

† and you and me,



**reassuring** all of us that the hour is coming and yet, has come for us to

† prepare ourselves,

† to gird our loins,

† to pray for the good work the Father gives us.



It is **holy work** for it comes from our heavenly Father,



it is accomplished in prayer and humble submission to His will,



and it is accomplished amidst tempest and pandemonium.



It is His **chosen instrument** given us to overcome.

Jesus' last hours of calm were spend preparing those He loved

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perfectly and personally for the cataclysmic battle against sin, death and the devil



that He was born to enter

† emptying Himself,

† submitting Himself,

† and exerting Himself to die for our sin.



King of kings was **sent by the God**



who **saves His own** by overcoming that which has

† spellbound,

† constrained,

† afflicted,

† terrorized

† and persecuted His holy ones.



He **had to do this,**



not in the strength of man



or the power of a horse or a sword,



but as the true Son of Man:

† **holy,**

† **devoted,**

† **humble,**

† **submissive,**

† **selfless,**

† **willing**

† and **willful.**



Profane men and devils were already in motion



as He **spoke to them** on that night



and yet He was **concerned** for

† their shelter and strength,

† their peace and their joy,

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† their temporary failure and ultimate success.

 He knew

 from where He came,

 where He was

 and where He was going

 in the next

† hours,

† days


† and eternity.

 Therefore He admonished and exhorted them to pray:

 as He did,

 what He did,

 when He did.

 The Son of Man was that night and is this day a praying man who sought

God's


 fellowship,

 will,

 promises

 and glory

 before,


 during


 and after

 He did the will and work of His Father.

 Immanuel teaches us that on

 that night it was

 and this day

 it is an ever ready and reliable weapon

 to subdue

† the fears and frustrations of the flesh,

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† the vast arrayed enticements and threats of a hostile world,  
† and the ruses and strategies of profane spirits.

 Our brother **demonstrated**



on that night it was



and this morning continues to demonstrates



willing and willful prayer is

† **pleasing** to the Father,

† **received** by the Father,

† **acted upon** by the Father for His sons and daughters

† whether they

✠ stand fast in the face of anguish and death

✠ or are temporarily overcome by the

🕯️ dark and destructive words and actions of godless men,

🕯️ hostile governance,

🕯️ and a defeated and dangerous prince of this world.

 Our great High Priest **prayed on that night**



to His God and our God



for safe passage through the upheaval



and safe arrival at the promised rest



for His disciples and for Himself.

Jesus **stands** with us this morning **calling** us to belief the truth that



His Father and our Father **inclines** His ear

† to **attentively hear** our prayer,

† **joyfully receives** our prayer,

† **steadfastly and generously answers** our prayer

† according to **His good will**

† **against those foes** that array themselves against Him and us,

✠ contesting His will

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✠ and the work He gives us  
✠ to advance His kingdom  
✠ against the dark and desperate efforts of  
☉ self-centered men,  
☉ a immoral world  
☉ and desperate wicked spirits.

 Jesus **cautions us** that our flesh will seek to get us to:

 run from the good work we are given,

 discount it as less important than things we have on our social and work calendar,


 despise it as something less than what we wish to do,


 and discard it for someone else to do.


 The Christ **calls us to pray, pray, pray and pray again in His name** for the **wisdom and strength**

 the Father and He **sends with the Holy Spirit.**

 The Son of Man **commands us to pray in His name**

 in preparation for going into His Father's fields,

 use of the gifts, knowledge and experience He **has given us to use** during our labors in our field,

 prayers of thanksgiving and praise when that task is done,

 and then prayers in preparation for His God and our God's next good work for us.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus **shares the events that night**

 as a historical event upon which we can

✠ listen,

✠ learn,

✠ meditate,

✠ and savor

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† for **His glory and our good.**

 His words:

 that night **addressed** an immediate challenge to His disciples;

 and this morning **addresses** an immediate challenge to you and me.

 God **gives us,**


 His children gathered at Martin Luther Chapel,

 **important** work,

 **consequential** work,

 **temporal** work

 and **eternal** work this week: **His governance of His family.**

 On Tuesday night, at the Voters' Meeting,

 by the **power of the Holy Spirit** we will

† review,


† discuss

† and vote


† to approve a new Constitution and By Laws and policies

† that He will **use to guide and protect** His holy ones here.

 He **gives us this work** and it is both


 a right and a responsibility,

 a privilege and a solemn trust.


 Therefore, pray in the sweet name of Jesus


 who suffered and died on the cross


 to give you and me the freedom

 to do this good work.

 Pray in the precious name of Jesus for

 wisdom and strength

 to prepare

 and do this good work.

 Pray in the holy name of Jesus

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for all of us



that in the **power of His spirit**

† we overcome all obstacles and challenges to

† do His work

† that He **provides through the leadership of our parish officers.**



Then pray thankfully and confidently that



He has **worked His will** through

† your vote,

† my vote,

† and the votes of our brothers and sisters

† **overcoming** all challenges and obstacles

† for His glory and our good

† as He **leads us on His path of righteousness**

† through this veil of tear

† to our heavenly Father's home

† where He will **recline us at His table**

† and we will feast with all the faithful

† forever in His peace and joy.

Amen and Amen.