

Martin Luther Chapel Lutheran Church, Pennsauken, NJ / 28 April 2019

Church Time: Easter: 2nd Sunday in Easter
Introit: Psalm 105: 1 – 5, 8 Antiphon: 1 Peter 2: 2 - 3
Psalm 148 Antiphon: verse 13
Gospel: John 20: 19 - 31

Color: White
First Reading: Acts 5: 12 - 20
Epistle: Revelation 1: 4 - 18





Divine Service: IV
Gradual: adapted from Matthew 28: 7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8: 6
Verse: Romans 6: 6; John 20: 29b





Hymn of the Day (HotD) 487 / . Come, You Faithful, RaiseThe Strain





Opening Hymn: 479 / Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Living
Sermon Hymn: 487 / . Come, You Faithful, RaiseThe Strain
Distribution Hymn: CCLI / He Lives
467 / Awake My Heart, With Gladness
478 / The Day Of Resurrection
464 / The Strife Is O' ver, The Battle Won
CCLI / 10,000 Reasons






Closing Hymn: 921 / On What Has Now Been Sown
Acolyte: (Primary) Martin / (Alternate) Jordan





Sermon Text: Gospel Text: John 20: 19 – 31
Sermon Title: “Peace”

My brothers and sisters in Christ, our risen Lord **comes** to you and me
 in this unlocked sanctuary this morning
 just as He **has promised**
 and He **promises** He will **continue to come** to us
 until that Last Day.

 While the location, setting and the times differ
 Jesus **stands in our midst**
 this morning of the first day of the week
 just as He **stood in their midst that evening.**

 The first born of the dead **continues to declare peace** as the remedy for:
 doubts and fears;
 contention between brothers and sisters;
 and demands for proof on our terms in the face of known and trustworthy
eyewitnesses.

Jesus already **comforted, reassured and restored** Mary Magdalene
 in the early hours of the first morning
 when she sought His corpse –
 He **called her by name**
 and **made her the first resurrection apostle** –
 sending her to His brothers and her brothers with His words of peace.

 The Messiah **journeyed with two conflicted disciples** on their way to Emmaus,
 **rebuked them** for their dullness and slowness to understand the events in
Jerusalem in the context of Holy Scripture,
 and **graciously delayed His departure**
 to **peacefully break bread** with them.

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-  The Rabbi then **came to His assembled disciples and apostles**
 that evening of the first day of the week
 because He **promised them**
 He would **arise on the third day**
 and **reestablish His fellowship** with them.
-  The Prince of Peace first and foremost **greeted them** with
 our heavenly **Father's peace,**
 **His peace,**
 the **Holy Spirit's peace**
 to **shatter and dispel** their doubts and fears.
-  The Suffering Servant announced absolution to them:
 **proving His death had reconciled God to man;**
 **purchased freedom** from sin, death, and the power of the devil;
 **bestowed salvation and eternal life;**
 and **secured full sonship in God's family.**
-  The Incarnate Word **breathed His spirit upon them** that they would
 wisely and justly continue His work
 within His people
 who would gather around them
 to receive
 † **His absolution,**
 † **His Gospel**
 † **and His sacraments.**
-  Our oldest brother **returned to the secured upper room** eight days later to both
reunite
 † **Thomas to Himself**
 † and to **His brothers and sisters.**
-  Our LORD's **words to Thomas**
 † harken us back to **His rebuke of Nathaniel's sarcasm and skepticism**

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† when He **first gathered to Himself the disciples.**

† Thomas confessed Jesus “My Lord and My God”

† just as Nathaniel confessed ““Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” (John 1: 41 – 51)

We, like the disciples in the upper room,

gather here on the first day of the week

having heard the resurrection news

and proclaim:

† “Alleluia! He is risen!”

† “He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

God has **given us such a great cloud of witnesses**

who saw the Christ crucified,

watched in horror and sadness as the Lamb of God exhaled His last breath,

gathered together for safety and solidarity for the next three days,

and seeing, hearing and touching His resurrected body,

proving they were neither gullible nor delusional.

Jesus **comes here,**

for you and for me,

with **words of peace and comfort**

instead of words of anger and condemnation.

The Son of Man **bears on His body**

the proof **He has paid**

for our sins,

† in full,

† once and for all.

The Good Shepherd

laid down His life for

† mankind,

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† His disciples,
† Peter, John, Thomas,
† you and me

and is **risen with His resurrected body** that still bears the
nail and spear wounds.

The Father's glory that night **asked for and ate** a piece of broiled fish. (Luke 24: 41 – 42)

He did **all this and many more things** that we believe **His resurrection guarantees our resurrection.**

Immanuel **comes in both His divinity and humanity** lest

our reason and strength,
the unbelieving world
and the Liar would cause us to

† doubt His death and resurrection,
† despair of His fidelity and truthfulness
† and dither between apostasy and hypocrisy.

My brothers and sisters, our risen Lord comes to us that we would

praise and adore our heavenly Father, Savior and Paraclete
for His **perfect love and unwavering faithfulness,**
abundant grace and unswerving mercy,
and His selfless sacrifice and infinite generosity.

He will **lead us** shortly,

not from a locked upper room for fear of the Jews,
but this sanctuary

to go, stand and proclaim His Gospel in the surrounding

† neighborhoods,
† townships,
† counties,

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† states

† and countries.

 **He sends us**

 **as His heralds**

 **with His words of life** that they too

† “may believe that Jesus is the Christ,

† the Son of God,

† and...by believing...

† have life in His name.”

Amen and Amen