

Martin Luther Chapel Lutheran Church, Pennsauken, NJ / 19 May 2019

Church Time: Easter: 5th Sunday In Easter

Color: White:

Divine Service: I

Introit: Psalms 98: 2 - 6 antiphon: 1

First Reading: Acts 11: 1 - 18

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

Psalm 148 antiphon: verse 13

Second Reading: Revelation 21: 1 - 7

Verse: Romans 6: 9; John 14: 23

Gospel: John 16: 12 - 22

Hymn of the Day (HotD) 633 / At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Opening Hymn: 700 / Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Sermon Hymn: 633 / At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Distribution Hymn: 706 / Love In Christ Is Strong And Living

475 / Good Christian Friends, Rejoice And Sing

708 / Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart

651 / I Love Your Kingdom LORD

718 / Jesus, Lead Thou On

Closing Hymn: 715 / Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me


Acolyte: (Primary) Martin / (Alternate)

Gospel: John 16: 12 - 22.

Sermon Title: "A little while"

Hebrews 1: 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, this morning the risen One

 **stands** in our midst –

 **glorified,**

 **majestic,**

 **regal,**

 **gracious,**

 **generous –**

 **speaking** to us who


 must still complete our exodus through


† trials and afflictions,

† death,

† the empty tomb

† and into eternity

 where He will receive us into the new Jerusalem

 where the fellowship of God with man is consummated perfectly.

The first born of the dead **speaks** to you and me,

 **lovingly –**

 **patiently –**

 **clearly –**

 **purposefully –**

 for a little while as His Spirit **works through His spoken word**


† to **guide** you and me


‡ through the devil's snares and the world's enticements


‡ while **calling us** to remain focused on Christ –

 the **eternal prize,**

 the **everlasting reward,**

 the **First and the Last.**

 Yet, He knows we are caught us with the temporal –

 the Beta - **β** (second letter of the Greek alphabet) and the Psi – **Ψ** (second to last letter of the Greek alphabet),

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 the things we are passing through in this world that are:


✦ fading away;

✦ used by God to test and prove our faith trustworthy and true;

✦ gifts that we are stewards of;

✦ vehicles by which the old Adam is cast off as the new creation grows stronger;

✦ the means and not the reward.

 Thus, the Holy Spirit guides us on the path of righteousness as we –

✦ children of God –

✦ depart from our state of humiliation through death to our eternal reward: God Himself.

✦ It is the path upon which our Savior **leads us for a little while** where we travel through

✦ suffering,

✦ tears

✦ and pain.

✦ As



our flesh taunts us to depart from;



the world exhibits its rancid and temporal rewards of wealth, fame and fortune in the alleys and in the dark back streets;



and Satan industriously and hatefully plots and schemes to ensnare and enslave us;



they all bid us to


✦ look,

✦ consider,


✦ embrace


✦ and seek them as our best home and greatest reward.

The Alpha – **A** – and the Omega - **Ω** – **speaks** to you and me, His disciples,

 having **suffered humiliation** as the Son of God by **taking to Himself our human nature** to **walk the path of righteousness** that led through

 the virgin birth,

 His ministry rejected and despised by those whose sin He bore,

 slandered, branded and condemned as

✦ the foulest –

✦ the most abhorrent –

✦ the most despised sinner

✦ for our sake

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† by blasphemous religious leaders

† and a perverted civil magistrate,

physically, emotionally and spiritually abused by men and the devil,

cursed by God and man as He hung upon the cross,

drank the last dregs from the cup of God's wrath,

offered His Spirit into the hands of His Father,

died,

and was buried.

He:

on the third day **rose again from the grave** in glory as the first born of the dead **with His resurrected body;**

ascended into heaven;

sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;

and He will **come again in His glory**

† with the holy angels

† to **judge** the living and the dead.

On that night, like this morning, His disciples looked upon Him in His state of

humiliation

and **suffering.**

They, His faithful witnesses, truthfully testified:

as inspired authors of the New Testament;

they saw Christ Jesus alive though they knew He suffered, died and was buried;

with their words and lives

† that Jesus is the Messiah

† as they traveled on the path of righteousness

† where the Holy Spirit **sanctified and guided** them through

† humiliation,

† temptation,

† suffering,

† and death.

Jesus **eternally reclines them** at His table

in our heavenly Father's mansion in divine

† love,

† peace

† and joy

with all the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,

awaiting the Last Day where He will establish the new Jerusalem for

† you,

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† me


† and all God's children.


Let us pray: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, by the power of Your Holy Spirit may we, for a little while, ever keep:


 our eyes fixed on Christ Jesus as He **leads us** through this veil of tears,

 our ears attentive to the Messiah's **call and commands**,

 our feet firmly and steadfastly standing on the Rock of our salvation

 our hands employed in the good work of advancing Your kingdom with the Gospel through our loving and humble service to our neighbors;

 and our hearts, mind and strength in the one true faith unto life everlasting.

 And again in a little while, as we believe, teach and confess

 **He will receive us into Your kingdom**

 where our hearts will rejoice

 and no one will take our joy from us.

Revelation 22: 20 Amen, come Lord Jesus.