

## Historic Scripture Lessons ✕ for Easter Sunday Festival

**Old Test. Hosea 13:14 NIV** "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction? I will have no compassion."

### Epistle

**I Peter 1:3-12** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in Heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the Gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from Heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

### Historic Gospel

**Matthew 28:1-8** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the First Day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary

went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from Heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, Who was crucified. 6 He is not here; He has Risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell His disciples: 'He has Risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.' Now I have told you." 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell His disciples.

### 3-Year C Gospel (Sermon)

**Luke 24:1-1** On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the Body of the LORD Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the Living among the dead? 6 He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: 7 *'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the Third Day be raised again.'*" 8 Then they remembered His Words. 9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

(FINAL GOOD FRIDAY) HYMN *Go to Dark Gethsemane TLH #159 (4 verses)*

**4. Early hasten to the tomb  
All is solitude and gloom,  
Christ is Ris'n! He meets our eyes.**

**Where they laid His breathless clay;  
Who hath taken Him away?  
Savior, teach us so to rise. Amen.**



# OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

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Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: [www.OSLLakeland.org](http://www.OSLLakeland.org)

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✧ Rev. Andrew R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✧ Organ: A.R. Burmeister

## April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 ✧ Easter Sunday-Christ's Resurrection

**WELCOME to Our Savior!** We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **Blessed Easter to you!**

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER:** If you are new to the area or Our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before Communing. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding. God bless you on Easter.

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** Printed here and in the (red) TLH hymnal at p.15.

| Service           |          |  |
|-------------------|----------|--|
| Opening Hymn      | 200 (8v) | <i>Sing v.1-4</i> I Know My Redeemer Lives           |
| Hymn of the Day   | 199 (4v) | Jesus Christ Is Ris'n Today, Alleluia!               |
| Offertory Verse   | 189 (1v) | <i>Sing 1v</i> He Is Arisen! Glorious Word!          |
| Distribution Hymn | 206 (10) | Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense                        |
| Closing Hymn      | 200 v5-8 | <i>Sing v.5-8</i> He lives to silence all my fears.. |

### Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays after Easter Sunday

| Monday       | Tuesday      | Wednesday     | Thursday     | Friday         | Saturday     |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Deut.9:1-29  | Deut.10:1-22 | Deut.11:1-32  | Deut.28:1-14 | Deut. 28:15-68 | Deu. 34:1-12 |
| Luke23:26-56 | Matt.26:1-35 | Matt.26:36-75 | Matt.27:1-38 | Matt. 27:39-66 | Mark 14:1-31 |

## PROPERs for THE FESTIVAL of EASTER APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2019

**INTROIT** When I awake, I am still with You. Alleluia! You have laid Your hand upon me. Alleluia! Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. Alleluia! Alleluia! O Lord, You have searched me and known me! You know my sitting down and my rising up. ...from Psalm 139

**COLLECT** Almighty God, who through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, has overcome death and opened for us the gate of everlasting life, we humbly ask You that, as You put into our minds good desires, so by Your continual help may we may bring those desires to good effect; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one True God, now and forever, C: ♪ A - - men.

**GRADUAL** C: Alleluia! This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us. Let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia! ...from Psalm 118

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:** (printed on outside back page of the bulletin.)

Thank you to all who donated lovely Easter lilies.

| Easter Lily Purchasers      | In Memory/Honor of:       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rev. Andrew Burmeister      | Doris Burmeister (Mother) |
| Connie Costenbader          | Dolores Stroh(Mother)     |
| Bev Foster                  | Robert, Barbara & Sue     |
| Elaine Jones                | Richard Jones             |
| Mary Lou Knigge             | Family                    |
| Carolyn & Don Miner         | Kathy (Sipple) Lane       |
| Shirley & DuWayne Marquardt | Pam (Daughter in law)     |
| Joan Patrick                | Parents                   |
| Vivian & Tom Temple         | Melinda, Cathleen         |
| Vivian & Tom Temple         | William Pennock           |
| Joe Thacker                 | Kay Thacker               |
| Orpha & John Weber          | Family                    |
| Ethel & Steve Wendt         | Victor Wendt, family      |
| Bev & Don Wienke            | Family (Markus)           |

| PRAYER REQUESTS: (Member or Relation) | Pray for...  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Linda Avant (Al's mother)             | Linda has had acute Syatica pain. In & out of LRM C      |
| Mary Lou Knigge                       | Was in and out of Hospital last week for rapid heartbeat |
| Dee Kurczewski (David)                | Dee - rehabbing. David working & helping Mom             |
| Jon & Andrea Sawyer                   | Jon home still rehabbing. Andrea starting new work       |
| Vivian Temple (Tom)                   | Vivian is at home recovering. Tom is helping her         |
| James Vanesky & Delores Platt         | Jim had a procedure on his L5 lumbar                     |
| (Write-in here...)                    |  |
| (Write-in here...)                    |  |

| Volunteers | Today                                   | Next Sunday            |
|------------|---|------------------------|
| Greeters   | Bev & Don Wienke                        | Vivian & Tom Temple    |
| Treaters   | Sun. 21 <sup>st</sup> Easter Breakfast! | (April) Potluck Brunch |

| Statistics                       | Last week         | Year To Date / Avg.    |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Sun./M.T./G.F. Attendance (L.S.) | 28, 19 / (19), 25 | 28 / 24                |
| Bible Class Attendance: Sun.Wed. | 12, 7             | 11, 10                 |
| Sunday Offering (Needed) & YTD   | \$940+180+792.    | YTD \$20,953. (\$20.K) |

| Calendar of Events            |             |   |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Today, April 21 <sup>st</sup> | 8:30 am!    | Easter Breakfast at church (No Bible Cl)              |
| Easter Sunday!                | 10:00 am!   | EASTER Worship (WITH Communion)                       |
| (Jesus' Resurrection)         | (all-day)   | Have a Blessed, Happy & Safe Easter ...               |
| Wednesday 4/24                | 6:00 pm     | Midweek Bible Study: Extraordinary Love               |
| Next Sunday 4/28              | 9:00 am     | BibleStudy Biblical Symbols: Water (H <sub>2</sub> O) |
| Easter-2C Sunday              | 10:00 am    | Divine Worship (No Communion)                         |
| Quasimodogeneti               | 11:15 ff... | "FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ... Stay!              |

Elders: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Don Wienke 815-8892

✧ Thank you ladies for Our Easter Breakfast & to all who provided Easter Lilies!

Next Sunday 4/28 Easter-2/C (p.5 L.S.) TLH #: 201 208 208,9-10 209 196

☞ A very blessed and happy Easter Holiday to all! ☞

**SANCTUS** (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)

**C:** ♪ Ho- -ly, ho- -ly, ho-ly, Lord God of Sab-a-oth;  
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the high-est.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the  
Name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the high-est.

The **LORD'S PRAYER** **C:** ♪ *Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name;  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven; Give us this day  
our daily bread, and Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass  
against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;*

**C:** ♪ For Thine is the Kingdom and the Pow'r and the Glory  
forever and ever. **A-** -men.

The **WORDS of INSTITUTION** (*Pastor gives the Words of Institution*)

**PAX DOMINI** **P:** ♪ *The Peace of the Lord be with you always.* **C:** ♪ **A-** -men.

The **AGNUS DEI** (*Lamb of God*) **C:** ♪ **O-** Christ, Thou Lamb of God,  
That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
**O-** Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us. **O-** Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away  
the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. **A-----men.**

**DISTRIBUTION.** *Communicant members of Our Savior may now come forward.*  
**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** *Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense* TLH 206 (*time permits*)

**NUNC DIMITTIS** **C:** ♪ Lord, now- lettest Thou Thy servant depart- in-  
peace, according to Thy Word. For mine- eyes have seen Thy Salvation,  
which Thou hast prepared- be-fore the face of all people, a Light- to  
light-en the Gentiles, and the Glo-ry of Thy people Is--rael. Glory- be to  
the Father and to- the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it- was in the  
beginning, is now, and ever shall- be, world without end. **A--men.**

**P:** *O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.* **C:** ♪ **And His mercy endureth forever.**

**P:** *We give thanks to Thee, Lord God Almighty,...now and forever.* **C:** ♪ **A-** -men.

The **SALUTATION** **P:** ♪ *The Lord be with you.* **C:** ♪ **And with thy spir-it.**

The **BENEDICAMUS** **P:** ♪ *Let us bless the Lord.* **C:** ♪ **Thanks- be to God.**

The **BENEDICTION** **P:** ♪ *The Lord bless thee and keep thee,  
The Lord make His Face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee,  
The Lord lift up His Countenance upon thee and give ✕ thee peace.*

**C:** ♪ **A-men, A-men, A-** -men.

**CLOSING HYMN** *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* #200 *Now sing verses 5-8*

5. He lives to silence all my fears, - He lives to wipe away my tears  
He lives to calm my troubled heart, - He lives all blessings to impart.
6. He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly Friend, - He lives and loves me to the end;  
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; - He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
7. He lives and grants me daily breath; - He lives, and I shall conquer death:  
He lives my mansion to prepare; - He lives to bring me safely there.
8. HE LIVES, ALL GLORY TO HIS NAME! - HE LIVES, MY JESUS, STILL THE SAME.  
OH THE SWEET JOY THIS SENTENCE GIVES, "I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES!"



**I. The Service of Preparation** TLH starting p.15 or here



**WELCOME, ALL! EASTER SUNDAY** ☩ ✠ *JESUS' TRIUMPHAL RESURRECTION*

**OPENING HYMN** *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* TLH 200, *Sing verses 1-4*

1. I know that my Re-deemer lives; - What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives-, Who- once- was dead; - He lives, my ever-living Head.
2. He lives triumphant- from the grave, - He lives eternally to save,  
He lives all-glo-rious- in- the- sky, - He lives exalted there on High.
3. He lives to bless me- with His- love, - He lives to plead for me above.  
He lives my hun-gry- soul- to feed, - He lives to help in time of need.
4. He lives to grant me- rich sup-ply, - He lives to guide me with His eye,  
He lives to com-fort- me- when- faint, He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

The **INVOCATION** (*Congregation please rise if you are able*)

**P:** ♪ *In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ✕ and of the Holy Ghost.*

**C:** ♪ **A-** -men.

**The CONFESSION OF SINS**

**P:** *Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins  
unto God our Father, asking Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us  
forgiveness. ♪ Our help is in the Name of the Lord.*

**C:** ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

**P:** ♪ *I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.*

**C:** ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of- my- sin.**

**C:** **O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner  
confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever  
offended Thee and justly deserve Thy temporal and eternal  
punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent  
of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake  
of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved  
Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful  
being.**

**P:** *Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained  
servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the  
stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in  
the Name of the Father and of the Son ✕ and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C:** ♪ **A-** -men.

The **INTROIT** (*Entrance. Pastor speaks the words of the Introit*)

**P:** *When I awake, I am still with You. Alleluia! You have laid Your hand upon  
me. Alleluia! Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain  
it. Alleluia! Alleluia! O Lord, You have searched me and known me! You know  
my sitting down and my rising up.*

...from Psalm 139

The GLORIA PATRI (*Glory be to God*)

C: ♪ **Glory-** be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON (*Lord Have Mercy*)

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (*Glory in the Highest.*) P: ♪ *Glory be to God on high.*

C: ♪ And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, Heav'n-ly King, God the Father Al-mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son- of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon- us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the Right Hand of God the Father, have mercy upon- us. For Thou only art holy. Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

SALUTATION (*Greeting*) P: ♪ *The Lord be with you.* C: ♪ **And with thy spir-it.**

The COLLECT (*Prayer for Easter Sunday prayed by Pastor - words on page 1*)

C: (*sung after the Collect*) ♪ **A- -men.** The congregation may be seated.

 **II. The Service of The Word** TLH p.20 

OLD TESTAMENT Hosea 13:14 Death & grave, Where's your sting & victory?

CHOIR ANTHEM *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done* (TLH #210) with Alleluias

EPISTLE I Peter 1:3-12 Jesus' Resurrection gives inheritance.

GRADUAL C: Alleluia! This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us. Let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia!  
...from Psalm 118

C: (*Sung after the Epistle & Gradual*) ♪ **Allelu-ia, Allelu-ia, Allelu- - -ia!**

The HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-11 (*If able, congregation please rise.*)

C: (*Sung before the Holy Gospel is read*) ♪ **Glory be to Thee, O LORD.**

C: (*Sung after the Holy Gospel is read*) ♪ **Praise- be to Thee, O CHRIST.**

NICENE CREED (*Our Confession of Faith*) All say together:

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in One Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, (cont. ↗)

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begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, being of one Substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was Incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made Man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; AND THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the Right Hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the Life ✧ of the world to come. Amen. (The congregation may be seated.)

HYMN of the DAY *Jesus Christ Is Ris'n Today, Alleluia!* TLH 199 (4 verses)

SERMON Text: Luke 24:1-11 THEME: "EASTER: A MATTER OF FACT AND FAITH"

(After Sermon) C: ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and- renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy Presence; and take not Thy Holy Spir-it from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy Salva-tion; and uphold me with Thy- free Spirit. Amen.

The OFFERING

OFFERTORY VERSE *He Is Arisen! Glorious Word!* TLH 189 (*offering brought up*)

**1. He is arisen! Glorious Word! -Now reconciled is God, my Lord; The Gates of Heav'n are open. - My Jesus did triumphant die, And Satan's arrows broken lie, - Destroyed hell's direst weapon. Oh hear What cheer! Christ Victorious Riseth glorious, Life He giveth**  
**HE WAS DEAD, BUT SEE, HE LIVETH! A-MEN.**



PRAYER for the CHURCH

III. Service of Holy Communion TLH, p.24 PREFACE



P: ♪ *The Lord be with you.*

C: ♪ **And- with thy- spirit.**

P: ♪ *Lift up your hearts.*

C: ♪ **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: ♪ *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C: ♪ **It is meet and right so to do.**

The PROPER PREFACE

P: *It is truly meet, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, (Easter Preface) Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of Heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name, evermore praising Thee and saying:*

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PASCHA EASTER/C Luke 24:1-11 **“EASTER: FACT AND FAITH!” 04.21.19 OSL**

*Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Jesus Christ is risen. And life can never be the same again.*

NIKOLAI Most of you maybe do not remember the name **Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin**. During his day he was as powerful a man as there was on earth. A **Russian Communist leader**, he took part in the **Bolshevik Revolution** 1917, was editor of the Soviet newspaper **Pravda** and was a full member of the Politburo. His works on economics and political science are still read today. There is a story told about a **journey he took from Moscow to Kiev in 1930** to address a huge assembly on the subject of **Atheism**. Addressing the crowd he aimed his heavy artillery at Christianity hurling **insult, argument, and proof** against it.

An hour later he was finished. He looked out at what seemed to be the smoldering ashes of men's faith. *"Are there any questions?"* Bukharin demanded. Deafening silence filled the auditorium but then one man approached the platform and mounted the lectern standing near the communist leader. He surveyed the crowd first to the left then to the right. Finally he shouted the ancient greeting known well in the Russian Orthodox Church: **"CHRIST IS RISEN!"** En masse the crowd arose as one and the response came crashing like the sound of thunder: **"HE IS RISEN INDEED!"**

I say to you this morning: CHRIST IS RISEN! (C: **HE IS RISEN INDEED!**). I am convinced! I have **faith** that Christ was dead and he was buried. That I believe. But, this too I accept as **fact**: He Rose from the dead and will come again in glory.

But, you will say to me, how do you know that the Resurrection is real? How do you know that it is really valid? ...Is Easter: a **FACT?** (or) Is it: **FAITH?**

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS FROM THE DEAD IS BOTH A **MATTER OF FACT AND OF FAITH.**

**1. (IT'S A) FACT** It is a **fact** that on the first day of the week, at early dawn, a group of women went to the tomb of Jesus, among them Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James. They say the open tomb and two angels who announced to them, *"He is not here. He is risen."* **It's a fact** that Peter and John saw the same open tomb shortly after hearing the news. **It's a fact** that Mary Magdalene was the first to see the Risen Lord in the garden, momentarily mistaking Him for the gardener. **It's a fact** that He was seen that day by two disciples on the road to **Emmaus**, by the Apostles in the **upper room**, by **Thomas** a week later, that He appeared to **James and all the Apostles**, and to **more than five hundred eyewitnesses at one time**, and finally to the Apostle **Paul** on the road to **Damascus**.

**HISTORICAL FACT** You ask me how I know He lives - these **eyewitnesses** testify to the fact. Jesus Christ is Risen from the dead. Death no longer has mastery over Him. The Resurrection of Jesus is a **fact of history**, attested to by eyewitnesses, many who laid down their lives rather than change their stories. They could easily have saved their necks by saying, *"It's not true" or "I'm not sure."* Peter, who three days before was so cowardly as to deny knowing Jesus three times to servant girl, suddenly becomes the **great proclaimer of Jesus** and eventually is crucified (upside down) for it. These are eyewitnesses (500+) who were willing to be tortured and put to death rather than change their testimony. They had everything to gain by changing their story. But these early eyewitnesses to the Resurrected Jesus didn't do that. They stuck with their story even to their martyr deaths. **Remember that.**

1 2 3 - EVIDENCE

If you've ever served on a jury, you learn a thing or two about **evidence**. There is (1) **circumstantial evidence**, a set of facts

surrounding the case which had a variety of explanations. There's (2) **"expert testimony"** of paid professionals who interpret those facts one way or another (depending on which side is paying them.) And then there are (3) **eyewitnesses**, what juries call **"real people."** Their testimony is the weightiest, *especially* if they have something to lose for testifying.

**FAITH-FOUNDED-ON-FACTS** Over 500 eyewitnesses testify to us (re: The Resurrection); their voices ringing in our ears from 2000 years ago, from that morning of the First Day of the week, from the open, empty tomb, from the bright angels keeping vigil. Christ is risen! Truly He is risen! The grave is empty. It is a fact of history: *"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead."* **Paul** says, *"If Christ has not been raised from the dead, then our faith is in vain [and we are yet in our sins]"* **Faith is founded on facts.**

**2. IT'S (ALSO) A MATTER OF FAITH** The Resurrection of Jesus is (also) a **matter of faith**. What we believe is that Jesus is not only risen from the dead, but He is *the "first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep."* (**I Thessalonians 4**) There's **the faith part**. Christ is the **first** to rise, and **there are more to come. ...That's US!** It is the core and center of our faith. We believe and confess (Creed) "in the Resurrection of the body and the Life Everlasting," and we don't believe in a life everlasting **without the Resurrection of the body.**

**"IF CHRIST IS NOT RISEN,"** **St. Paul** says our preaching is for nothing, your faith is for nothing, you are still in your sins. If Christ isn't raised, you're wasting your time here, you can go and celebrate the **world's** (commercial) **Easter** and roll Easter eggs around and wear bunny ears. If Christ isn't raised, then those who have died in Christ **are gone and have perished**. If Christ isn't raised, we are, as the Apostle **Paul** says to the Corinthians in that **great Resurrection chapter 15, the most pitiful bunch of religious dupes on the face of the planet**. If all we have is some vague spiritual hope in Christ for this life and there is no Resurrection of the body on the last day, we are pitiful. You may as well be a **Buddhist or just a happy Atheist**. It's a whole lot easier, **IF** Christ is **NOT** raised.

**(WE'RE) VESTED** That's why there is such a vested interest in (finding and) **keeping** Jesus' **bones in a box**, "nicely dead." If Christ isn't raised, then you can write Him off, ignore Him, marginalize Him. He predicted at **least three times** He would rise from the dead, and if He didn't, you're free to ignore Him. **But if He's risen, all bets are off, aren't they?** If Christ is Risen, then His Words carry the weight of the Son of God in the Flesh who says, *"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,"* and Who says, *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me,"* and Who says, *"For this is the Will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up on the Last Day."*

**ONE MAN (OLD MAN)** This is the faith part, the part you must hear and trust with all your heart. **"For as by a man came death, by a Man has come also the Resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."** When Adam disobeyed and died, humanity disobeyed and died in him. That's why you die. That's why our loved ones die. That's why the whole human race is destined to die. We are born in the death of Adam. The wages of sin is death. That is the irrefutable proof that you are a sinner. You are dying. You are a child of Adam, therefore you will die and there's **no** (use in trying to) **denying or ducking it.**

2<sup>ND</sup> MAN (NEW MAN) Then comes the **Second Adam**, the new Head of humanity, Jesus the sinless, spotless Son of God, conceived in a Virgin without an earthly father. When He dies, all humanity dies in Him. But this new Adam **also rises**, so that when Christ rises all humanity rises in Him. *“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”* Jesus is the *Firstfruits* of the Resurrection, the First Harvest of the grave. Death has been destroyed (O.T.), conquered by the Cross of Jesus whose death swallows up Death forever. **Christ is risen and in Him YOU WILL RISE.**

GET PERSONAL Faith in Christ says: *“That’s for me and for my salvation. His death is my death; His life is my life, His Resurrection is my resurrection, His glory = my glory. He has reached down into my grave, my death, and conquered it. Death no longer has master over Him, and baptized into Him, death no longer has mastery over me. Christ has taken my sin to His grave and buried it in my Baptism. He has given me new life in His Resurrection. I no longer live, but Christ now lives in me, and the life I live now in this flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”* That’s when Easter gets **personal** for each of us.

HANG ONTO THIS Jesus Christ **IS** risen from the dead. He was crucified for your sins and raised for your justification. It’s a **fact** to be **believed**. Trust Him. Confess Him. Cling to Him **in your last hour**. He **will** raise you to life eternal on His great Day.

EASTER EVERY DAY We need to be reminded of Jesus’ death and Resurrection, or we will go off and cook up our own little **death-denying religion**. We need Easter, not just once a year, but once a week, (or better,) every day. We need to **return to the Tomb in our Baptism**. We need to eat and drink the sacrificed Body and Blood of the Lamb Who was slain **but lives**. We need to hear the great Good News that the stone is rolled away, the door of death lies open, the tomb is empty, the grave clothes are set aside ... just like the **Marys** did, just like the **Disciples** did, just like people down **through the ages** have, and **everyone living in 2019 needs to hear**. Death has been swallowed up in victory. Christ has conquered Death by His Death. He is risen. And in Him you also have risen. And by His Word you too will rise. **More certain than taxes and death is Resurrection from the dead in Jesus.**

JESUS CHRIST **IS** RISEN That’s the song of this day. Sing it far and wide. Spread the great good news to a world that walks in darkness and the shadow of death. Christ is risen, and in Christ all **will** be made alive. Stare death in the face and proclaim it boldly. Live as those who have nothing to lose - for Christ already lost and won it all for you. Die as those who have **everything to gain, for to live is Christ and die is gain.**

**Christ is Risen!** *His death is Death’s demise. Death is swallowed up forever..*

**Christ is Risen!** *Sin is washed away (forever). And with it death is also gone.*

**Christ is Risen!** *The devils cower in fear, their reign of darkness is ended.*

**Christ is Risen!** *A New Creation has dawned; the old is gone, the New has come.*

**Christ is Risen!** *Adam is lifted up from the dust of death.*

**Christ is Risen!** *And in Him you live (now and forever).*

The sting of sin is death, and the power of sin is the Law. **But Thanks be to God! He gives us the Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! IJ’N, Amen. SDG**

## Possible Prayer of Church (Paschal Feast) **Easter Sunday** ✠ **April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

*Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.*

Father in Heaven, You raised Your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead as the Firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. Fill all Your baptized people with the joy of His victory, and send us forth as witnesses to His resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lover of mankind, prosper Your Gospel wherever it is preached throughout the world, that it may give and sustain faith in all who hear it, delivering them from the power of darkness and bringing them into the joyful Kingdom of Your Risen Son. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of glory, Your Son established Your Church to be a refuge of peace in a troubled world. Raise up servants of Your Church in every place who will devote their lives to the spread of the Gospel and the service of Your people. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

King of the nations, remember in Your kindness all who bear authority in our land, and give them wisdom and integrity that they may serve our people according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rock of refuge in every time of need, hear the prayers of those who call upon You in times of distress, especially those who are lonely and homebound, the sick, the dying and the mourning [*especially* **OSL Prayer List**].

| <b>PRAYER REQUESTS:</b>                  | <b>Member or Relation</b> | <b>Pray for...</b>                                       |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Linda Avant</b>                       | (Al’s mother)             | Linda has had acute Syatica pain. In & out of LRMC       |
| <b>Mary Lou Knigge</b>                   |                           | Was in and out of Hospital last week for rapid heartbeat |
| <b>Dee Kurczewski</b>                    | (David)                   | Dee - rehabbing. David working & helping Mom             |
| <b>Jon &amp; Andrea Sawyer</b>           |                           | Jon home still rehabbing. Andrea starting new work       |
| <b>Vivian Temple</b>                     | (Tom)                     | Vivian is at home recovering. Tom is helping her         |
| <b>James Vanesky &amp; Delores Platt</b> |                           | Jim had a procedure on his L5 lumbar                     |

*(Write-in here...)* **Sri Lanka survivors** Explosions in churches, >200 dead

*(Write-in here...)*

May Your Son ever be for them their joy in sorrow, their health in sickness and their life in death. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bountiful Giver of all things, Your Son has prepared a Feast of Forgiveness and Life for His people. Grant to all who **come to His Altar today** a faithful share in His unending Life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the living, receive our thanks this day for all Your servants who have departed this life in Your faith and fellowship and who now rest from their labors. Bring us by Your grace to share with them in the triumph of Your Resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen. ...Then, the Lord’s Supper, p.24**

