

He was received up
into heaven, and sat
down at the right
hand of God.

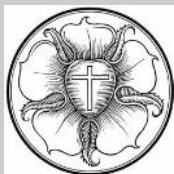
ST. MARK 16: 19

FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
FOR THE ASCENSION
OF OUR LORD



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Esprit

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Sorrow into Joy

by Pastor Sutton

JESUS said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy..." (St. John 16.20).

God has never promised that Christians won't get sick, or that He will heal their every disease miraculously in this life. Some charismatic "holy roller" Christians do believe this. If you pray hard enough, if one is faithful enough, troubles will stay away.

On the contrary, Jesus has promised us that we will have troubles in this world. In John 16, the disciples are worried that Jesus had said, "A little while, and you will not see me... because I am going to the Father" (St. John 16.17). Jesus would be crucified, resurrected, and ascend to the Father for the salvation of the world. That is the salvation and Savior to put one's faith in. So all the "believing" and good works some Christians put on their conscience and on others will not miraculously protect them. Faith in Christ as Savior of the world saves from eternal death - Jesus has gone to the Father's right hand, victor over sin, death, and the powers of hell.

There are also many who believe the exact opposite, that God can't or won't preserve His people through miraculous means. It's very tempting to believe it's entirely up to us whether we contract the coronavirus or not, that it's purely a matter of following "science." Many voices are out there telling us that if we take enough precautions, if we give up enough civil liberties, if we listen to science (ever-changing though it has been), if we wear the right apparel, if we find the right medicine or vaccine, then we'll be "OK." If we make a mistake anywhere along that line, we have failed. God doesn't intervene to help or save. That's a shame - again, an all "Law" based way of living, with no Gospel comfort. It's all on you.


Some would proffer that Christians are pretty foolish if they believe in a God who interacts with this world, who gets His hands dirty in our lives. The distant god of Gnosticism (that God is merely a source of heavenly knowledge for us to discern) is relatively harmless, distant as he is from this creation.


But the immanent God of Christianity, who created the world in six days, who actually still expects His commandments obeyed, who sacri-


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Esprit is the informational and educational newsletter of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Esprit de corps indicates a sense of union and of common interests and responsibilities, as developed among a group. Our community of Immanuel is centered in the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to us in the Holy Scriptures and the Sacraments.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is an historic and centrally located parish—called, gathered, and strengthened by Christ's Word and Sacraments—confessional in doctrine, evangelical in orientation, orthodox in liturgy, cosmopolitan in membership; serving the Terre Haute community and the students of Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and reaching out to the nations since 1858 as a parish of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Youth Confirmation

THREE of our young people: Hailey Schulz, Amanda Schulz, and Adam Sutton, having been thoroughly examined and absolved by the pastor, and their catechesis being sufficient, are ready to be admitted to the Lord's Table here at Immanuel. For this we rejoice and give thanks to God.

It is the intention of Pastor Sutton, in coordination with the families of these youth, that the Rite of Confirmation for these three young people be held at the Divine Service on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, assuming that pandemic restrictions are eased sufficiently by that time. It is hoped that the members of the parish who are not at risk and are sufficiently healthy will point towards this day to physically be present for this Divine Service. ✠



Updates on the Divine Service and Congregational News

PLEASE continue to look for updates regarding Immanuel's latest news and status of the Divine Services through "mail chimp" subscribed email blasts, and we also will update using our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ielcth) and our church website (ielcth.org/news). If you are not currently receiving email updates, go to our church website and subscribe at the above site.

The Board of Deacons will be meeting in early May to update on the situation and react to the latest proclamation by the Governor. Again, watch your email or the website for the latest news. ✠

Ascension Day: Thursday, May 21



SVADO · PARARE
VOBIS · LOCVM

FORTY days after Our Lord's Resurrection, the Church commemorates the Ascension of Our Lord. This important event celebrates Jesus' seat at the Right Hand of the Father to intercede on our behalf. We give thanks to Our Lord for this work of Our Ascended Savior for us and for our salvation.

Ascension Day is Thursday, May 21. Join us for Divine Service at 7pm to receive Our Lord's gifts in Preaching and His Holy Supper. ✠

Continued from page 1 fixed His Son on the cross and raised Him bodily from the dead to save all men who fall short of the Law's demands, who is present where His people gather in His name, who gives them His very Body and Blood in the Sacrament, who sends people either to heaven or hell when they die, who will truly come at the Last Day to judge mankind: that isn't a God many in our society is willing to tolerate anymore, much less believe in.

Our Lord meets us where He promises to be in this "little while" when He is ruling His Church from the Father's right hand, in this time of living by faith and not by sight. He comes to us in His Word and gives us His Holy Spirit, the gift of faith and trust, and the promise of joy coming out of our sorrows:

Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full (St. John 16.23-24).

We ask the Father for things, "in Jesus' name," by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus we do not ask for things outside of God's expressed will - like miracle lottery cash bonanzas or to be protected from foolish acts - including not taking precautions when God gave us wisdom about how to be safe.

God does promise daily bread, deliverance from evil, forgiveness of sins, and that His Kingdom will come to us and His will be done among us - that His saving Word is preached and taught to us and we believe it. These are the things to pray to the Father for, in Jesus' name, empowered by the Holy Spirit. This includes protection from illness and death, and if it is our time to die, a blessed

death and a sweet release into the arms of our Savior.

In this time of societal turmoil, take the greatest comfort in knowing that you never need to panic, that sorrow does not go on forever, and that joy will come with the morning of a new day in Jesus Christ. Your times are in the Lord's hands and your eternal life cannot be touched by any disease, not by death itself. Jesus Christ still reigns at the right hand of God. Joy will come through Him and it will be complete and full at the last day.

As our parish is able to open up the Divine Services to more and more people as the next months proceed, remember that it's a good thing to be in the presence of Jesus: to live is Christ, to die is gain. Where two or three are gathered in His name, there He is in our midst as we come together to receive His gifts, to seek His help, to praise His name, to worship Him, to honor Him, and to confess Him.

If you're showing any symptoms of illness or you feel uncomfortable coming at the moment, stay home. It's okay, and as Vicar made clear in the sermon for Good Shepherd Sunday: you are baptized, you remain part of the one flock of Jesus, and He remains for you the One Good Shepherd. But remember to take heart, trust the Lord for His protection today and tomorrow, and look forward to that day when you and your fellow Christians can join hearts and voices together to hear the Gospel and sing our Savior's praises.

So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you (St. John 16.22). ✠



Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

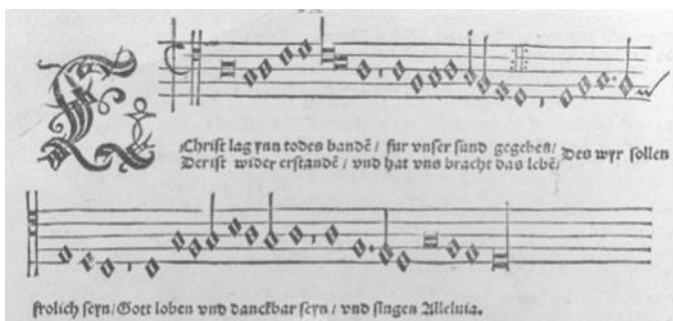
by Kantor Schultz

THE hymn of the day, or chief hymn, of Easter is Martin Luther's (1483-1546) "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands," (458) or, in the original German "Christ lag in Todesbanden." It's rich theological message is always applicable to the life of a Christian going through the joys and challenges of life. We sing it at Divine Service several times throughout the Easter season. I encourage you to commit it to memory and use it at home in your daily prayer especially during the Easter season. It shines forth among our beautiful Easter hymnody as a precious treasure to the Church from Luther's pen.

The sad tendency of hymnal editors is to chop out stanzas from our hymns. "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" is a happy exception to this rule. In 2006, *Lutheran Service Book* actually restored this hymn to all seven stanzas from Luther's original in 1524. *The Lutheran Hymnal* (195) and *Lutheran Worship* (123) only included five stanzas, omitting stanzas 2 and 3. We are thankful for its complete inclusion as part of the core of our hymnody.

Luther described this hymn as "the hymn of praise 'Christ is Arisen' Improved." He based it on this German folk Easter song from the twelfth or thirteenth century "Christ ist erstanden," which we know as

"Christ is Arisen" (459). "Christ is Arisen" is based on the Latin Easter sequence "Victimae paschali laudes," "Christians, to the Paschal Victim" (460). The sequence is the traditional chant sung as the Gospel is processed into the center of the Nave.



In his hymn, Luther proclaims the message of the Easter Epistle from 1 Corinthians 5:

"For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

Stanza five makes this connection to the Epistle and, in turn, to its recollection to the Passover in Exodus 12: "See, His blood now marks our door; Faith points to it; death passes o'er, And Satan cannot harm us."

Stanza six continues the interpretation of the "Therefore let us keep the feast." "So let us keep the festival, To which the Lord invites us." Stanza seven reminds us that every time we hear Our Lord's Word and celebrate His Holy Supper, we celebrate Easter Day, and reiterates the Epistle "Not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

Then let us feast this Easter Day
On Christ, the bread of heaven;
The Word of grace has purged away
The old and evil

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(Continued from page 4)

leaven.

Christ alone our souls will feed;
He is our meat and drink indeed;

Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia!

In the tune, you can notice the similarity in the development from the plainsong chant from "Christians to the Paschal Victim" to the German folk tune "Christ is Arisen" to Luther's "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands." If you have some spare time on your hands these days, search them on YouTube. Notice the similarities and enjoy beautiful music celebrating Our Lord's resurrection.

While you are checking out these hymns and

chants on YouTube, search for Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) cantata on Luther's hymn. Search for BWV 4. BWV is the abbreviation for *Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis* (Bach's Works Catalog), the cataloguing system for Bach's complete works. Use your hymnal (458) to follow along with Bach cantata. After a brief instrumental movement, the remaining seven movements correspond to the seven stanzas in our hymnal.

Bach first wrote this cantata during his service as kantor in Mühlhausen, and it was first performed in 1707 or 1708. Bach revised it for use in Leipzig, where he served his longest tenure as kantor. It was performed in 1724 and 1725. ✕

See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph

by Kantor Schultz

THE Chief Hymn for Ascension Day, "See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph" (494) is by Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885). He taught at Cambridge University, served as a Anglican parish priest in Berkshire, and was bishop of Lincoln.

He was a prolific writer and is known for his collection *The Holy Year*, published in 1865, which contains hymns for every season of the liturgical year.

Hymnologist John Julian (1839-1913) describes "See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph:" "The amount of Holy Scripture compressed into these forty lines is wonderful. Prophecy, types, historical facts, doctrinal teaching, ecstatic praise, all are here; and the result is one grand rush of holy song."

Wordsworth recalls the story of the

Ascension in its context from Holy Week and Easter in stanza 2: "He who on the cross did suffer, He who from the grave arose, He has vanquished sin and Satan; He by death has crushed His foes."

He masterfully reflects on various Old Testament accounts as types of Our Lord and His Ascension in stanzas three and four, including Enoch, Aaron, Joshua, and Elijah.

Most importantly, Wordsworth's text connects Our Lord's Ascension to our joining the throne of heaven when He draws us to Himself:

He has raised our human nature
On the clouds to God's right hand;
There we sit in heavenly places,
There with Him in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;
Man with God is on the throne.
By our mighty Lord's ascension
We by faith behold our own. ✕

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

by Vicar Keller

**I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.**

This hymn is based off the words of Job, the man who endured Satan's assaults and remained faithful to the Lord. His property and wealth were stolen away, his children killed, and his health diminished, yet he trusted the Lord saying, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1.21). When Job was in his deepest despair, his wife and friends advised that he blame God, if God was even there. Instead, Job's faith remained steadfast in the Lord, saying:

"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another" (Job 19.25-27).



In these trying times of pandemic, economic uncertainty, and panic, remember these words of Job. He believed that even though the surrounding world was filled with terrors, our Redeemer lives. Indeed, Christ is risen! He has overcome the evils of sin, death and the devil. Therefore, we can take confidence in our risen Lord. Though we might face illness, hardship or death, we know that we will see God in our flesh. For as He lives, so He will come again on the Last Day to raise up all the dead. Then, in the heavenly realm, our eyes shall see God forever.

In the meantime, trust in the Lord to guide us through these hard times. Hear the Word of the Lord preached to you even though you are at home. When you make the sign of the cross, remember your baptism, that as Christ died and rose, so also will you. Yearn for the Body and Blood of Christ given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. This pandemic will die off soon, but our Redeemer lives forever.

**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.**
(LSB 461, stanzas 1,5) ✕

Electronic Giving—GivePlus Mobile App

NO Checks? No Problem! Electronic giving is now available at Immanuel with the GivePlus mobile app. Simply download the app and set up a one time or recurring gift. Simple and secure giving electronically with your mobile device. Additional information is available on the table outside the Parish Office. ✕

GIVE+



Call and Vicarage Placement Service

ON Wednesday, April 29, Concordia Theological Seminary held the annual call service to place candidates into parishes where they will serve in the Office of the Holy Ministry. This year, since they were not able to be held in person, the service was combined with the vicarage placement service, and held virtually.



Our vicar from last year, Seminarian Simeon Cornwell, was called to serve as Pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church—Spring Lake, Michigan.

Our current vicar, Seminarian Andrew Keller, was called to serve as Pastor at St. James Lutheran Church—Reynolds, Indiana.



Our member Seminarian Kyle Mullins was assigned to serve as vicar at Prince of Peace—Martinsville, Indiana.

Our vicar for 2020-2021 will be Seminarian Brendan Harris.



We give thanks to Our Lord for raising up men to serve in His Church. Thank you to Immanuel members for your on-going support of our participation in the vicarage program. ✝

Our Website: IELCTH.org

VISIT the website for announcements and information about upcoming events, Divine Service, the church year, and catechesis. The *Parish News* and *About Sunday's Music* are regularly published on the website each week. Share the website with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers as a way to spread the word about our confession of faith and activities at Immanuel.

Our website is the best way to stay up-to-date with Immanuel news as we share our regular weekly and monthly correspondence and special events on-line. ✝

Immanuel's Google Calendar

VIEW the church calendar on the website. At the top of the page, go to "Resources" and click on "Events." Click on the "click here" link to see the calendar. Add the calendar to your own Google calendar to stay up-to-date on events at Immanuel. ✝

DIVINE SERVICE is celebrated every Sunday at 10:30am and on Feast Days as announced.

DIVINE OFFICE: LAUDS (MORNING PRAYER) and **VESPERS** (EVENING PRAYER) are prayed as announced in the weekly *Parish News*.

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION is offered the third Thursday of the month (May 14; June 18) from 5-6pm, or anytime by appointment.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY are at 9am.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT BIBLE STUDY with dinner is Sunday at 5:30pm.

ADULT CHOIR rehearsals are Thursdays from 6:30-8pm, and Sundays from 9:45-10:20am.

"WORSHIP ANEW," produced by Lutheran Media Ministries of Fort Wayne and supported by Immanuel's special gift collection, airs every Sunday morning on WTWO at 8am.

WESTMINSTER BIBLE STUDY meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:30pm except when there is a holiday at the end of the month. The next meetings are May 22 and June 26. All members are invited to attend.

ESPRIT DEADLINE for July/August is Monday, June 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the mailing. Watch the *Parish News* for the date.

Serving in June at Divine Service

Altar Guild – Sara Latta; Leslie Bilyeu

Tellers – Joanne Beleslin; Beth Beel; Jamie Thomas; Chelsea Clay

Ushers – Mike Latta; Jim Latta; Kris Wineinger

Acolytes – To be determined

Schedule of Divine Liturgies for May and June

May 3	Jubilate – Fourth Sunday of Easter, 10:30am	Divine Service
May 10	Cantate – Fifth Sunday of Easter, 10:30am	Divine Service
May 17	Rogate – Sixth Sunday of Easter, 10:30am	Divine Service
May 21	Ascension of Our Lord, 7pm	Divine Service
May 24	Exaudi – Sunday after Ascension, 10:30am	Divine Service
May 31	Feast of Pentecost, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 7	Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 14	First Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 21	Second Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 24	(Wednesday) Nativity of St. John the Baptizer, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 28	Third Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 29	(Monday) St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles, 10:30am	Divine Service