

# An Inspiring View

Date: 05/17/2020

Text: 1 Peter 3:13–22

## Verse for Meditation

*“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.” (1 Pet 3:18).*

## Points to Ponder

1. Reality:
  - Christians all have difficulty with discipleship
  - We struggle with how faith interacts with \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Confidence in Christ will encourage us to endure the difficulty of discipleship:
  - Discipleship is \_\_\_\_\_ easy.
  - Peter encourages us to look to \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Jesus do?
4. We therefore need not fear or flee from situations of difficulty but rather \_\_\_\_\_ our Savior, confident in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. An inspiring view: God calls us to see our lives in light of the death and resurrection of Christ.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School  
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101  
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325  
[www.siouxcitystpauls.org](http://www.siouxcitystpauls.org)



1 Peter 3:18, NRSV

6 p.m. Sat., May 16, & 8:15 a.m. Sun., May 17, 2020



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

## THE SIXTH SUNDAY EASTER

(6 p.m. Sat., May 16 & 8:15 a.m. Sun. May 17, 2020)

### Servants of God's House Today:

**Pastor:** Rev. Kenny Hsu

**Organists:** 6 p.m. Sat., Joyce Seymour; 8:15 a.m. Sun. Mabel Huldeen

**Ushers:** Jack Smith Team

**Missionaries:** Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,  
Rev. Paul Flo, Rev. Charles Cortwright

**Readers:** 6 p.m. Sat. Elizabeth Sanders; 8:15 a.m. Sun. Natalie Schulz

**WELCOME!** We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

**AS WE GATHER** What makes our Easter celebration so amazing is that here it is that same Lord Jesus whom we witnessed dying on a bloody cross who now risen from the dead appears and speaks to us. Today He promises to send to us "another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16-17). By means of the Spirit we are equipped not only to testify and witness to the saving faith but also, should it be God's will, to suffer for that testimony. We hear the inspired words of Peter speak about suffering "for righteousness' sake" living in the very resurrection hope of Christ.

Peter wants to convince us that it is precisely in our suffering that Christ meets us and acts for us. For He knows suffering intimately but also possesses the triumph over it. He points us to our Baptism, where Christ's victory becomes our victory. His resurrection life gives us new life, which for now is but the beginning to be stretched out into life eternal.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### DIVINE SERVICE FOUR

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(The congregation is invited to respond in the words written in **bold**.)

#### **The Ringing of the Bells**

Hymn of Invocation

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" LSB 556 vs.1,3,4,5,6  
(stand as you are able for the last verse)

#### **The Wave of Fellowship**

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

#### The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: When suffering for Your truth comes our way, remind us of the certain victory that is ours by our Baptism into Christ. Give us the vision of Your mercy and grace, that we endure any opposition to the true faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Visit with Your peace and healing all who suffer illness, injury, or any painful difficulty, especially Gerald Collins and Brian Erickson. Let not their hearts be troubled or weighed down with any fear, but lift their eyes to Your sure and certain promises of eternal life and joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: With reverence and affection, we remember before You, O everlasting God, all our departed family and friends who have followed Christ and now are with Him in glory. By Your grace, keep us faithful and steadfast, that we see the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Marlene Mertens, Tracy Seibold, Sandra Bock, Kathleen Heibel, Susan Horst, Bonnie Knutson, Lindley Rugu, Lionell Rugu, Lainey Rugu, Ashley Searls, Jennifer Marks, Marlis Hilden, Jacie Moore, McKenna Sulzbach, Sherry Williams, and Carson Jager. Lord in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

(Stand as you are able)

#### Lord's Prayer

#### Benedicamus & Benediction

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P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

#### The Closing Hymn "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

LSB 821 vs. 1,3,5

#### Silent Prayer

#### Postlude

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<sup>15</sup>[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

<sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you as orphans; I will

come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

<sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

<sup>21</sup>Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Nicene Creed

(Please be seated)

(on the back cover of the hymnal)

Hymn of the Day

“Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense”

LSB 741 vs. 1-4

Sermon

“An Inspiring View”

1 Peter 3:13–22

Offering of God’s People to their Beloved Savior

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

**St. Paul’s members** have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

**To our guest:** Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please pass your **Welcome Card** to an usher or acolyte.

*Proverbs 11:25—Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.*

Offertory Hymn

“Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense”

LSB 741 vs. 5-6

The Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, we give You thanks and praise for the new life and salvation with which You have brought beauty into our lives and our world again through the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. We pray that You open the ears of all who hear Your Word, that this salvation come to many in true repentance and faith, the gift of Your own Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: To all who bear the authority of government in our land, give Your blessing, that tranquility and peace rule our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

## *Confession and Absolution*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## *Service of the Word*

The Kyrie “Lord, Have Mercy” (*Sung*)

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P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

The Gloria in Excelsis Glory to God in the Highest (*Sung*)

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**To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav’nly King.**

**To You, O sole-begotten, The Father’s Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow’r are seated At God’s right hand on high—**

**For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

**C: God our Father, You protect Your children from all that would harm our salvation. Give us the courage of faith and love toward You, that we have boldness to live for You and confess Your holy name before all; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The First Reading Acts 17:16–31 (Paul in Athens)

<sup>16</sup>Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

<sup>18</sup>Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbling wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup>For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I

found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."

<sup>29</sup>Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day

on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual We praise God together in the words of the Gradual.

*Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

C: Christ has risen from the dead. God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor, He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands; He has put all things under His feet.

The Epistle Lesson 1 Peter 3:13–22 (Suffering for Christ)

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup>having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he

might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

(Stand as you are able)

The Alleluia and Verse (Sung)

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

(Please remain standing for the Gospel and the Creed)

The Holy Gospel John 14:15–21 (The promise of the Holy Spirit)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**