



A Word from Pastor Schielke

“Hail Thee Festival Day, Blest Day to be Hallowed Forever, Day when our Lord was Raised Breaking the kingdom of death. Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the author of life and creation. Treading the pathway of death, New life you give to us all:” (LSB 489).

This text was written (originally in Latin) by Venantius Fortunatus sometime around the year 575 AD. Almost 600 years after the resurrection of Jesus, Fortunatus was reflecting on what a joyous miracle the resurrection of Jesus was and its significance centuries later. That first Easter was a blessed day, one to be “hallowed” made holy, set apart, for all time. 600 years must have seemed like a long time to Fortunatus, no doubt. Like all Christians, he would have been hoping that Jesus’ resurrection would soon be coming to its fullness at the resurrection of all flesh on the last day.

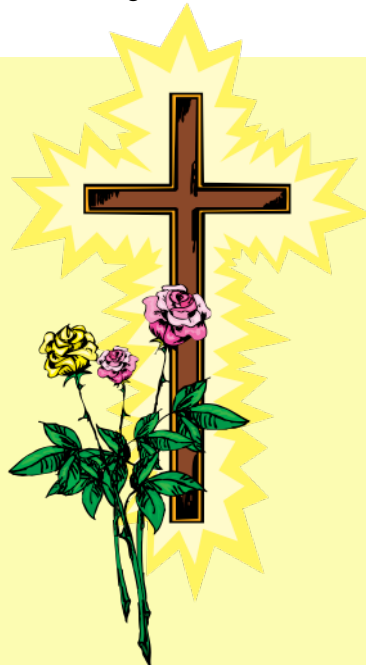
Likely, Fortunatus couldn’t have envisioned Christians singing his hymn over 1,400 years after he wrote it. And yet, we still set apart

the day of Christ’s resurrection and celebrate it with joy. 2,000 years since Christ rose from the dead certainly seems like a long time to us, but Fortunatus’s words ring true that we the church are still celebrating this event, and God willing will do so until the day we die, and until Christ returns in glory.

The significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus cannot be overstated. It was the point in history to which all the past was building. It was the fulfillment of all the promises that God had been making to humanity since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. And it remains the most important historical event that has ever taken place in the history of the world since its creation. This is why the Easter Triduum (the three day period from Maundy Thursday evening to Easter Sunday morning) is still set apart or hallowed by Christians to this day. Though chronologically three days, the triduum is considered as a single event liturgically. The entire unfolding of Christ’s death

and resurrection brings forth the salvation of the world.

Of course the triduum is more than a historical event; it is the basis of our faith. Had Christ not died for our sins, we would still be in our sin and doomed to hell for eternity. If Christ had not been raised, our faith would be in vain, and death would still be victorious. But Jesus, the perfect spotless lamb of God did die, and His sacrifice atones for our sin. And Jesus did rise from the dead, punching a hole in death itself, defeating death completely, and this new life He gives to us all. “Hail Thee Festival Day, Blest Day to be Hallowed Forever, Day when our Lord was Raised Breaking the kingdom of death.”



"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 15:57

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The Augsburg Confession - Below is part 5 of the twenty-eighth article of the Augsburg Confession. The Confessions are what we believe and confess as a Lutheran congregation. When they say “they teach,” they mean our churches teach.

Article XXVIII - Of Ecclesiastical Power

65 The Apostles commanded Acts 15:20 to abstain from blood. Who does now observe it? And yet they that do it not sin not; for not even the Apostles themselves wanted to burden consciences with such bondage; but they forbade it for a time, to avoid offense.

66 For in this decree we must perpetually consider what the aim of the Gospel is.

67 Scarcely any Canons are kept with exactness, and from day to day many go out of use even among those who are the most zealous advocates of traditions.

68 Neither can due regard be paid to consciences unless this mitigation be observed, that we know that the Canons are kept without holding them to be necessary, and that no harm is done to the consciences, even though traditions go out of use.

69 But the bishops might easily retain the lawful obedience of the people if they would not insist upon the observance of such traditions as cannot be kept with a good conscience.

70 Now they command celibacy; they admit none unless they swear that they will not teach

71 the pure doctrine of the Gospel. The churches do not ask that the bishops should restore concord at the expense of their honor; which, nevertheless,

72 it would be proper for good pastors to do. They ask only that they would release unjust burdens which are new and have been received contrary to the custom of the Church Catholic.

73 It may be that in the beginning there were plausible reasons for some of these ordinances; and yet they are not adapted to later times.

74 It is also evident that some were adopted through erroneous conceptions. Therefore it would be befitting the clemency of the Pontiffs to mitigate them now, because such a modification does not shake the unity of the Church. For many human traditions have been changed in process of time,

75 as the Canons themselves show. But if it be impossible to obtain a mitigation of such observances as cannot be kept without sin, we are bound to follow the apostolic rule, Acts 5:29, which commands us to obey God rather than men.

76 Peter, 1 Pet. 5:3, forbids bishops to be lords, and to rule over the churches.

77 It is not our design now to wrest the government from the bishops, but this one thing is asked, namely, that they allow the Gospel to be purely taught, and that they relax some few observances which

78 cannot be kept without sin. But if they make no concession, it is for them to see how they shall give account to God for furnishing, by their obstinacy, a cause for schism.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Divine Service 10 a.m. Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	3	4	5	6 Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m.	7 Good Friday Service 7 p.m.	8 Prayer Vigil 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Private Confession 2-4 p.m.
9 Easter Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Divine Service 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 11:15 a.m.	10	11 Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	12	13	14	15 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.
16 Divine Service 10 a.m. Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	17	18 Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	19	20	21	22 Outreach Seminar 9:00 a.m.
23 Divine Service 10 a.m. Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	24	25 Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	26	27	28	29 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.
30 Divine Service 10 a.m. Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon Voters' Meeting						

For 2023, I would like to challenge every member of this congregation to read or continue reading through the Bible in one year. The Bible readings for April and part of May are listed below.

April 1: 1 Sam. 18-20
 April 2: 1 Sam. 21-24
 April 3: 1 Sam. 25- 27
 April 4: 1 Sam. 28-31
 April 5: 2 Sam. 1-3
 April 6: 2 Sam. 4-7
 April 7: 2 Sam. 8-12
 April 8: 2 Sam. 13-15
 April 9: 2 Sam. 16-18
 April 10: 2 Sam. 19-21
 April 11: 2 Sam. 22-24
 April 12: 1 Kings 1-2
 April 13: 1 Kings 3-5

April 14: 1 Kings 6-7
 April 15: 1 Kings 8-9
 April 16: 1 Kings 10-11
 April 17: 1 Kings 12-14
 April 18: 1 Kings 15-17
 April 19: 1 Kings 18-20
 April 20: 1 Kings 21-22
 April 21: 2 Kings 1-3
 April 22: 2 Kings 4-5
 April 23: 2 Kings 6-8
 April 24: 2 Kings 9-11
 April 25: 2 Kings 12-14
 April 26: 2 Kings 15-17

April 27: 2 Kings 18-19
 April 28: 2 Kings 20-22
 April 29: 2 Kings 23-25
 April 30: 1 Chron. 1-2
 May 1: 1 Chron. 3-5
 May 2: 1 Chron. 6
 May 3: 1 Chron. 7-8
 May 4: 1 Chron. 9-11
 May 5: 1 Chron. 12-14
 May 6: 1 Chron. 15-17
 May 7: 1 Chron. 18-21
 May 8: 1 Chron. 22-24
 May 9: 1 Chron. 25-27

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1 Corinthians 15:57

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April Birthdays:

- 3 Troy Wilson
- 4 Kaitlyn Rodgers
- 6 Beth Crutcher
- 12 Barney Sales
- 14 Esther Adair
- 16 Nathan Campbell
- 22 Gabriel Safford
- 28 Randy VanDekerkhove



April Anniversaries:

- 17 Darin and Melinda Mitchell
- 28 Eugene and Robin Kroeger



VIC Happenings



Good Friday



Easter Morning

Maundy Thursday Service - This service is April 6 and goes through Christ's trial and sentence to the cross.

Good Friday Service - This service is April 7 and is a Tenebrae service, a service of darkness. It is about his sentence and death on the cross.

Easter Breakfast - We will be serving breakfast from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Easter Service - This is a celebration of Christ's win over death and the devil.

Easter Egg Hunt - This is following the Easter Service for all children 12 and under.

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