

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; April 17-22 , '23

Mon Acts 5:12,17-32 In one of the porticoes/lanais of the Temple complex, perverse clergymen did their best to put a damper on the Spirit's work, but they were outgunned and outflanked by God (17-28), who also nudged Peter to lay out the facts—that God kept the wheels of salvation moving by raising Jesus from the dead, elevating Him to heavenly glory, and putting courage into His witnesses to speak up loud and clear (29-32).

Tues John 20:19-29 The disciples were afraid of the Jews who had killed Jesus, and that was good reason for Jesus to show up: He was visible proof that killing Him didn't last (19-20). [Can you figure out how forgiveness fits into this spot of the narrative (23)?] We should thank Thomas for being backward, for Jesus is patient with all of us doubters, who crave the blessing of walking by faith, not by sight (27-29).

Wed Revelation 1:4-11 Who said God isn't interested in us and our church family? He authorized John to tell seven Turkistan congregations that Jesus, Lord of the Church, didn't want them to be clueless about His love and concerns. How wonderful that Jesus, CEO and Be-all-End-all of the Holy Christian Church (1-8), delegated Evangelist John to set them straight about their favored place in God's grand salvation enterprise!

Thurs Acts 7:51-60 Stephen's service as Helping Hands Coordinator took a turn here, for when he rehearsed God's grace and mercy, Satan stirred up a hornets' nest; the buzzing interrupted his sermon, pushing Stephen to a hasty Application (51-53), which infuriated the hornets (54). So, God stepped in and rewarded Stephen with his charter trip to heaven.

Fri John 20:30-31 is both short and long; short in words, long in meaning. God takes into account that we humans depend on our five senses to figure out where we are in space/time; we perceive reality via our senses. That's why Jesus performed so many miracles and why the Holy Spirit put every-thing into a written record—so that down through the centuries people like us could entrust our souls/lives into Jesus' miraculous hands.

Sat Revelation 1:12-18 We may be so used to picturing Jesus as humble and lowly that we don't recognize Him as He IS in heaven. Take a deep breath now, for Jesus is so splendiferous that (viewing Him from head to foot) His face is like sunshine at high noon, His eyes like arc-welding, His hair like fresh snow, His feet like refined brass, His voice like Niagara Falls, etc. The Holy Spirit wants us to picture Jesus this way—along with the other mental images of His birth, visit to the Temple, baptism in the Jordan, visits with friends, etc. This vision impresses us with His heavenly life/activities (17-18). Amen.

April 16, 2023
Second Sunday of Easter



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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #206:1-3

"Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"

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

C *♩ Amen.*

Confession of Our Sins

P Pastor

C Congregation

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P 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 You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

P O Almighty God, our Maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given us His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives the power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C *♩ Amen.*

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #203

"Morning Breaks Upon the Tomb"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C *♩ Amen, amen, a – men.*

Hymn: TLH #205

"The Day of Resurrection"

Thank You to Len Benter for conducting the service today!

No Communion Today: We will celebrate the Lord's Supper next weekend when Pastor returns from vacation.

Upcoming Schedule:

- Wed. April 19th – No Wednesday Bible Class
- Sun. April 23rd – Regular Sunday Schedule
- Wed. April 26th – Bible Class @ 9:30 am

Still Room for Easter Joy? When you woke up last Sunday, you had reason for joy! But today? The picked-over Easter candy is 80% off. The problems of the world are still there, more daunting than ever. The stresses in our own personal lives weigh on us. So what happened to Easter? Nothing. It's still there. We can open our eyes every morning with the realization that Christ is risen. "He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all" (Rom. 6:9-10).

Every day we have the peace of knowing that our sins were buried with Christ and that now we have new life in Him. His victory is ours. We have the joy of the Lord's presence with us as we go about our daily lives. The risen, ever-living Lord is there to guide us with His Word, protect us with His power, and give us purpose to every moment of our time on earth. For the believer, it's really Easter every day. There's nothing better to wake up to!

Acts 1:14a, 36-47

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them,...

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Reactions to the Resurrection

Today's sermon was written by Pastor Luke Bernthal, St. Stephen Lu.

The Offertory

In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, the Holy Spirit.

- ☩ **♩ 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 Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.**

The Introit

Ps. 133

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- ☐ Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!
- ☩ **It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!**
- ☐ It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.
- ☩ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
- ☐ As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Gloria Patri

TLH #199:4

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

- ☩ **♩ Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

- ☐ O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☩ **♩ Amen.**

Luke 24:13-35

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What is this

conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." ²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

1 Peter 1:17-25

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

I BELIEVE...

**in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was
conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and
buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again
from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall
come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the
Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the
resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn: TLH #201:1-3

"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"