Taking Gathered Worship Home

The First Week of Easter – Sunday, March 31, 2024

Taking Gathered Worship Home" (TGWH) has been developed for you to use in the private worship of your home, whether you are married or single, and whether or not you have children. It is a tool to knit us together throughout the church year. While we would encourage the use of TGWH in its entirety, you are encouraged to adapt the offerings to your particular circumstances. The prayer is taken from "Lutheran Worship" and the psalm readings are taken from the "Book of Common Prayer" and the daily readings are from "The Book of Common Worship."

Almighty God the Father, through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ you have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Readings

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 148, 149, 150 Exodus 12:1-14 John 1:1-18 Luke 24:13-35 Evening Psalter – 113, 114

☐ Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (p. 2)

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 93, 98 Exodus 12:14-27 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Mark 16:1-8 Evening Psalter – 66 ☐ Psalm 16 (p. 4)

TUESDAY

Morning Psalter – 103 Exodus 12:28-39 1 Corinthians 15:12-28 Mark 16:9-20 Evening Psalter – 111, 114 ☐ This Joyful Eastertide (p. 6)

WEDNESDAY

Morning Psalter – 97, 99 Exodus 12:40-51 1 Corinthians 15:29-41 Matthew 28:1-16 Evening Psalter – 115 ☐ The Day of Resurrection (p. 9)

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Morning Psalter – 136 Exodus 13:1-2, 11-16 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 Luke 24:1-12 Evening Psalter – 118

I Jesus Lives and So Shall I (p. 12)

SATURDAY

Morning Psalter – 145 Exodus 13:17—14:4 2 Corinthians 4:16—5:10 Mark 12:18-27 Evening Psalter – 104 ☐ In Thee Is Gladness (p. 13)

Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 46. How dost thou understand these words, "he ascended into heaven"?

A. That Christ, in sight of his disciples, was taken up from earth into heaven; (a) and that he continues there for our interest, (b) until he comes again to judge the quick and the dead. (c)

(a) Acts 1:9; Matt.26:64; Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51. (b) Heb.7:25; Heb.4:14; Heb.9:24; Rom.8:34; Eph.4:10; Col.3:1. (c) Acts 1:11; Matt.24:30.

Q. 47. Is not Christ then with us even to the end of the world, as he has promised? (a)

A. Christ is very man and very God; with respect to his human nature, he is no more on earth; (b) but with respect to his Godhead, majesty, grace and spirit, he is at no time absent from us. (c)

(a) Matt.28:20. (b) Heb.8:4; Matt.26:11; John 16:28; John 17:11; Acts 3:21. (c) John 14:17-19; John 16:13; Matt.28:20; Eph.4:8,12.

Q. 48. But if his human nature is not present, wherever his Godhead is, are not then these two natures in Christ separated from one another?

A. Not at all, for since the Godhead is illimitable and omnipresent, (a) it must necessarily follow that the same is beyond the limits of the human nature he assumed, (b) and yet is nevertheless in this human nature, and remains personally united to it.

(a) Acts 7:49; Jer.23:24. (b) Col.2:9; John 3:13; John 11:15; Matt.28:6.

Q. 49. Of what advantage to us is Christ's ascension into heaven?

A. First, that he is our advocate in the presence of his Father in heaven; (a) secondly, that we have our flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that he, as the head, will also take up to himself, us, his members; (b) thirdly, that he sends us his Spirit as an earnest, (c) by whose power we "seek the things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God, and not things on earth." (d)

(a) 1 John 2:1; Rom.8:34. (b) John 14:2; John 17:24; John 20:17; Eph.2:6. (c) John 14:16,7; Acts 2:1-4,33; 2 Cor.1:22; 2 Cor.5:5. (d) Col.3:1; Philip.3:14.

In Preparation for the Divine Service: April 7, 2024, The Second Sunday of Easter

Sermon Reading: Mark 4:21-25

Rev. Dr. Marcus Serven

The Appointed Lessons:

Psalm 148 Acts 4:32-35 1 John 1:1—2:2 John 20:19-31