

The Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord
St. Mark 16:1-8
April 4th, 2021
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

He Is Risen!

In Nomine Iesu!

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

Lord God, heavenly Father, Who didst deliver Thy Son for our offenses, and didst raise Him again for our justification: We beseech Thee, grant us Thy Holy Spirit, that He may rule and govern us according to Thy will; graciously keep us in the true faith; defend us from all sins, and after this life raise us unto eternal life, through the same, Thy beloved Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Our Lord + Jesus Christ has indeed been raised by the heavenly Father for our justification. It is because of His resurrection from the dead that we can with all confidence believe that the heavenly Father accepted the sacrifice of His One and Only-Begotten and Beloved Son on the tree of the holy cross. It is on account of this faith in the atonement of our Lord + Jesus and the acceptance of the sacrifice that is shown us by His rising from the dead, by which we are justified, that is, made right with the Lord God. We are justified by our faith. Our faith clings to the resurrection of our Lord + Jesus. For by this resurrection from the dead we know that we indeed also will rise again from the dead on the Last Day. On account of this we cannot help by sing, "Hallelujah!", that is, "Praise the Lord!"

Our dear Lord + Jesus became our Passover Lamb, even as the Blessed Apostle St. Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth in his First Epistle—our Epistle reading for today. In that Epistle St. Paul connects the Passover meal with the sacrifice of our Lord + Jesus. There were those at Corinth who were praising their own works. Those who praise their own works exclude the Christ. They forsake the sacrifice of the Passover Lamb—the Lord + Jesus—for the praise of mankind over their works. They wanted to look inside themselves for how good of a Christian they were.

Praising our own works, or looking inside ourselves to seek comfort in what we do, only leads us to look outside of ourselves. For our conscience, which is always accusing us for our sins and failures, can never find in ourselves the true and lasting comfort it seeks. It can only find that in the sure and certain sacrifice and atonement of our Lord + Jesus. We can with all certainty look the resurrection of our Lord + Jesus that the sacrifice that He made on the tree of the holy cross was accepted by the heavenly Father, and because we cling to this in faith, we are justified with the Lord God, and will also receive the reward of eternal life, having been raised from the dead by the heavenly Father on the Last Day.

When we trust in our works, instead of the works of the Christ, we are forced to look outside of ourselves for our salvation. We should look outside of ourselves for our salvation, but that looking outside of ourselves should not be in the praise of mankind, or other false idols. This is the mistake that

many people make. When their good works do not offer comfort and peace, they look to other false gods to prop them up. Many people look for that in the praise of mankind. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. A little bit of desire to make our good works merit salvation only leads us to look outside of ourselves to the praise of mankind. We hope they will build us up by praising our good deeds. This does not bring life; however, it only brings death. For just as our conscience always accuses us for breaking the Law of God, there will always be someone who is disappointed with our actions; mankind will also let us down. Indeed, all of the false idols that we set up will all let us down.

When we look outside ourselves for our salvation we should not look to the praise of mankind, but we should instead look to the Passover Lamb—our Lord + Jesus. He was sacrificed for us. In sincerity and truth, we can cling to Him in faith, for He has atoned for all of our sins, and He was raised again for our justification. He was raised so that by our faith in His death and resurrection, we are justified before the heavenly Father. This is in Whom we look when our consciences accuse us. This is to Whom we go, when Satan, the Accuser, points his accusing finger at us and brings into our minds all the stupid, sinful things we have done throughout our lives. We go in faith to the atonement of our Lord + Jesus. There we find salvation. There in our Lord's atonement on the holy cross the accusations of the devil must remain silent, for our Lord + Jesus has fully paid for all of our sins and transgressions.

The resurrection of our Lord + Jesus is further assurance for us that the atonement that He made on our behalf as truly paid the penalty of our sins. It assures us that the devil has no foot to stand on when he casts into our minds all of the sins and transgressions that we have done; which drive us into despair and shame. The resurrection of our Lord + Jesus assures us that when we become puffed up in our works that no matter how good of a work we think we may have done, we will never be able to satisfy the wrath of the Lord God over our past and current sins. Only the sacrifice of our Lord + Jesus can appease the wrath of the Lord God heavenly Father. Furthermore, only on account of our faith in the works and merits of the Christ, can we hope to be raised from the dead on the Last Day.

Our Lord's resurrection from the dead is the proof in which we can fully trust and in which we can fully believe, that as He was raised again from the dead, we too will rise again on the Last Day. For our Lord God justifies all those who cling to Him in faith. He not only provided the atonement through His Son, our Lord, + Jesus on the tree of the holy cross, and provided a sign in which we may place our faith and trust that the sacrifice made by our Lord + Jesus was accepted, but He even creates and sustains faith and life in us by the work of the Holy Ghost through the means of grace. Through the preaching of the pure Word of God—the preaching of the Gospel—and through the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper, we are granted faith by the Life-giving Holy Ghost.

The women who came to the tomb very early on the first day of the week received the preaching of the young man clothed in a long white robe and sitting on the right side of the tomb—an angel. The angel preached the first Easter sermon, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." The first Easter sermon was that our Lord + Jesus had risen from the dead. He was no longer in the tomb. His grave was empty. The sacrifice that He made on the tree of the holy cross was accepted by the heavenly Father, and He was raised again for our justification. We now can cling to Him in faith and be justified, because He rose again from the dead. We can will all boldness and confidence believe that our sins have been paid, and we will rise again from the dead on the Last Day.

The women, in their trembling and amazement, fled from the tomb. This news was too great for them to hear. They could not believe it. How could this great thing happen? No one had ever raised himself from the dead. We saw this when our Lord + Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. We saw His power over death and His ability to grant life in the raising of Lazarus. No one before had raised anyone from the dead who had begun to decay. Our Lord + Jesus not only raised Lazarus after he had begun

to stink from decay, but He restored to Lazarus the same body he had before he died. Here at the tomb of our Lord + Jesus we see another event that had never occurred before: someone raising Himself from the dead. It is no wonder that the women—Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome—all fled the tomb as they trembled and were amazed. This thing had never before occurred. It was too wonderful for them to behold.

At times, our own resurrection from the dead seems to be too wonderful to believe. How can a poor, miserable sinner such as me be worthy of eternal life with a new and glorious body given to me by the Lord God? It is too wonderful for us to comprehend. Our Lord's sacrifice for us is also something too wonderful for us to fully comprehend. We no longer have any need to look to our works, or to the praise of mankind kind because of them. For our Lord's resurrection from the dead gives us a sure sign that our sins have been paid for in full; that the Lord God had accepted our Lord's sacrifice. We therefore can cling to the works and merits of the Christ as a sure and complete atonement for all of our sins. He is risen! He is no longer in the tomb. His grave is empty. Our graves will on the Last Day be empty, too, as we enter into our eternal home in Heaven. Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Almighty God, Who by the death of Thy Son hast overcome sin and death, and by His resurrection hast restored innocence and everlasting life, to the end that we, being delivered from the power of the devil, should live in Thy Kingdom: grant that with our whole hearts we may confidently believe this, and in such faith ever thank and praise Thee; through the same Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Votum:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria!