

MAY 2021

(This article deals with a newer piece of art at our sister congregation, St. Paul, Linkville. However, the truth of Christ contained within apply also here at Good Shepherd.)

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

~ 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

The Easter celebration continues. It is ongoing in the church year until the day of Pentecost. Well, actually, we never stop with our Easter joy because every Sunday is considered a “little Easter.” Jesus rose from the grave on that day and that’s why Christians have gathered on Sunday ever since. We gather to receive the good news that Jesus died for our sins and rose triumphant and still dwells with us by His Word and Supper. So as the church counts her days, we are still in the season of Easter during this month and the beauty of Christ’s resurrection is still fresh before our eyes.

Therefore, I would like to turn your attention to one of the pieces of art purchased for St. Paul’s 125th anniversary back in 2019. The depiction of our resurrected Lord is one part of a larger piece, but that which hangs on our wall speaks volumes and points to what we confess here every Lord’s Day: *He suffered and was buried. And on the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures.*

Hanging near the exterior doors in our church is Christ risen from the dead. He is the Lamb of God that John the Baptist pointed at - slain for our sins but now alive. Notice the crucifixion wounds in the flesh of Jesus which Thomas was implored to notice and also the wound bearing Lamb who holds the victorious banner. The banner reads “NIKA,” which is Greek for “victory” or “conquer” and displays a cross which is red like the blood of Jesus spilled for our redemption.

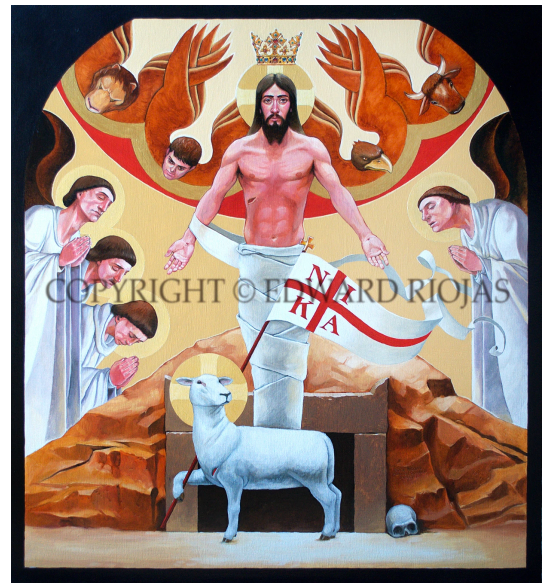
Death lies dead at the foot of the empty tomb where the skull lies as we are reminded of Ezekiel 37: *can these bones live?* The answer comes from the Lord, *I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people.*

Heaven is depicted in the piece stooping down as the four creatures - representing the four Holy Evangelists; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - surround Him as Jesus takes center stage with His crown and tri-radiant nimbus (the circle around His head) declaring Him Lord of all. The angels and the heavenly host worship the risen Christ; the victorious Lamb.

Take a minute or two and explore this beautiful artwork. It hangs where you can see it before you depart out the doors and into the world so that you would hold tight to the fact that Jesus is risen from the dead and therefore you need not fear it anymore. He was slain, is risen, and has won the victory. And we, His saints, are the spoils of His battle. Let all creation bend the knee at Christ risen from the dead.

The peace of Christ be with you,

- Pastor Suggitt



LIFE QUOTES

“It’s a terrible thing to see any life that is used and abused instead of being protected and cared for. The value of life should not be based on the benefits it can offer. So we pray to the Lord to move all people to value and appreciate all life as God’s gift.” *A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*
lutheransforlife.org

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