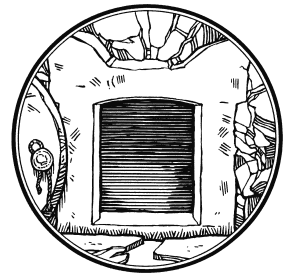


The Resurrection of our Lord, Funerals, and Hymns April 2022

After making payment for our sins by dying, Jesus rises from the dead. He is alive now in the same body that was hung on a cross and put in the tomb. Death can't hold Him. What a marvelous thing! What comfort and joy for we who have been baptized into Him and cling to him by faith! For as St. Paul confesses concerning baptism, "If we have been united to him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:5). We are united to Christ who rose from the dead, which means we too will be raised out of the grave alive.

This passage from Romans is the first proclamation upon our lips at a funeral. It is to say that just as our loved one is not held down by death, neither are we. We are joined to Christ. The grave could not hold Him and it will not hold us. This is one of the main points of the funeral rite. To proclaim our Lord's victory over that huge enemy of death. Our greater David has pummeled the giant in the head and has come out alive. The great fear and sting of death that overshadows us has been alleviated and overcome by our champion, Jesus. Listen to how the Scriptures speak of it: "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he [Jesus] himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through the fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery" (Hebrews 2:14-15). We are freed from the fear of the grave for Jesus has taken up our cause and shares His victory with us.



It is for this reason, then, that at our funerals we appropriately sing Easter hymns. Yes, we may be heartbroken and have tears for our loved one but these are intermingled with our Alleluias of Jesus' triumph. Consider these things as you attend the Easter services this year and sing of the resurrection. Who but we Christians, can make such a confession at a funeral? The world says death is the end of you and therefore clings solely to the past. But we hold fast that brighter days than this will commence as we cling by faith to God's Son crucified and risen. Let our hymns of His Easter rising bring us joy and comfort not only at Easter but at the funerals of His beloved saints. He has defeated death! What a confession. What a great truth. Grab a hymnal and let it come forth from your lips.

*Alleluia! Now we cry
To our King immortal,
Who, triumphant, bust the bars
Of the tomb's dark portal.
Come, you faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel
Into joy from sadness!
(LSB 487 st. 5)*

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt

LIFE QUOTES

“[W]e demand an end to the injustice of abortion. We demand an end to the injustice of human trafficking, pornography, slavery, and the separation of children from their parents. But we do so as confessors. We confess that we are sinners, great sinners, with the culture of death flowing in our veins and pulsing through our corrupted brains. And we confess that only in Jesus is the life we need.”

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

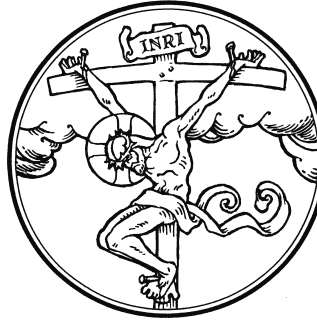
Holy Week Services

Holy (Maundy) Thursday **4/14**

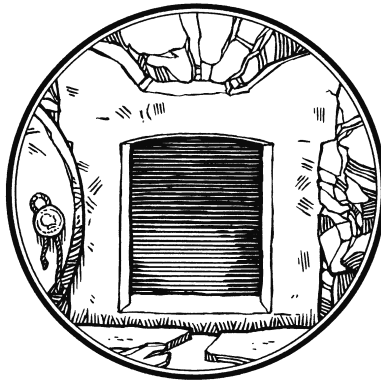
Good Shepherd, Caseville - 5:30pm
St. Paul, Linkville - 7pm

Good Friday 4/15

Good Shepherd, Caseville - 1pm
St. Paul, Linkville - 7pm



The Resurrection of Our Lord



Easter Vigil 4/16

Grace Lutheran Church
Fairgrove - 7pm

Easter Sunrise 4/17

St. Paul, Linkville - 6:30am

Easter Festival Service

4/17

St. Paul, Linkville - 8:30am
Good Shepherd, Caseville - 10:30am