

IF... THEN...

I LIVE IN HOPE

April 19, 2020

The world is broken. It's easy to see. The brokenness around us brings pain and heartache, struggle, and disappointment to our lives. But as we look up through the blood, sweat, and tears, we see Jesus, alive, with arms outstretched. "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened. I will give your rest." Jesus alive = hope in every circumstance.

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 160

This Joyful Eastertide

- 1) **This joyful Eastertide**
Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
Has sprung to life this morrow.
Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now is Christ arisen!
- 2) **Death's flood has lost its chill**
Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver.
Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now is Christ arisen!
- 3) **My flesh in hope shall rest**
And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number.
Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now is Christ arisen!

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



Confession of Sins

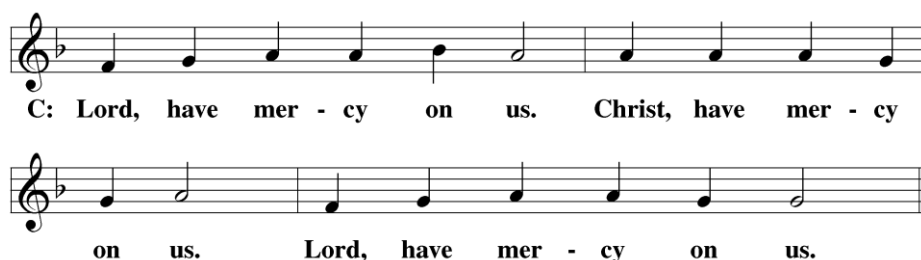
M Brothers and sisters in Christ, when confronted with the news of Jesus' resurrection, Thomas couldn't believe it. He had to see Jesus for himself. He had to see and touch Jesus' scars to make sure they were real. Because it is in the reality of the resurrection that one finds true hope.

C **We can understand Thomas' struggle. In our own moments of spiritual doubt we've longed for some tangible evidence of God's presence. We've wanted God to prove to us that he will keep his promises.**

M Our faith struggles are evidence of the spiritual weakness that afflicts us. Yet, just as Jesus reached out to meet Thomas where he was at, so Jesus comes to us today to assure us of his love, his forgiveness, and his guiding presence on our lives. Let us therefore humble ourselves before God and confess our sin.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY



M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

HYMN 265, vv. 1-3

This Is the Feast of Victory

This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation.
This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, through your death and resurrection you lift up this fallen world from the despair that sin and death bring.

C Lift us up. Through your forgiving love fill our hearts with hope and joy.

M We pray, Jesus, in your name. For you live and reign with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter encourages God's people with the reality that Jesus' resurrection was witnessed by both the prophets (prophetic vision) and the apostles (eyewitnesses).

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,^[a] put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him:

"I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest in hope,

²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

you will not let your holy one see decay.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence.'^[b]

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

The Lord did not abandon Jesus to the grave, nor will he abandon us.

Refrain

I will walk in the pres-ence of the Lord,
in the land of the liv - ing.

Psalm tone

Keep me safe, O God,*
for in you I take refuge.

I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord;*"
apart from you I have no good thing."

I have set the LORD always before me.*
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Refrain

My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;*" ^{*}
my body also will rest secure,

because you will not abandon me to the grave,* ^{*}
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

You have made known to me the path of life;*" ^{*}
you will fill me with joy in your presence.

**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.**

Refrain

Jesus appears to his disciples and assures them that he is indeed alive again. Then he opens their minds so that they can understand that his life, death and resurrection were all prophesied in the Scriptures.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
 Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
 Leave to your God to order and provide;
 In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
 Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly friend
 Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
 To guide the future as he has the past.
 Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
 All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
 Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
 His voice who ruled them while he lived below.

Be still, my soul, though dearest friends depart
 And all is darkened in the vale of tears;
 Then you will better know his love, his heart,
 Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
 Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
 From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
 When we shall be forever with the Lord,
 When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
 Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
 Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
 All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

SERMON

1 Peter 1:1-9

Pastor Peter Panitzke

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Praise to God for a Living Hope

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have

had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C **Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C **Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

M Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory.

C **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

M Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

C **Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

M Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C **Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 386, VV. 1, 2, 5

Now I Have a Firm Foundation

**Now I have found the firm foundation
Which holds my life forever sure;
'Twas laid before the world's creation
In Christ my Savior's wounds secure,
Foundation which unmoved shall stay
When heav'n and earth will pass away.**

**It is that mercy never ending,
Which human wisdom far transcends,
Of him who, loving arms extending,
To wretched sinners condescends.
His heart with pity still will break
Whether we seek him or forsake.**

Let mercy cause me to be willing
To bear my lot and not to fret.
While he my restless heart is stilling,
May I this mercy not forget!
Whatever comes my heart to test,
His mercy is my only rest.

CLOSING PRAYER

M Lord Jesus Christ,
C send us out with confidence in your Word,

M to tell the world of your saving acts,
C and bring glory to your name.

M We praise you now and forevermore.



BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



We desire to serve you in any way that we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

ST. PAUL'S PASTORS Office (414) 422-0320

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 303-1241
Pastor David Kuehl	Ext. 121	dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 861-0635
Pastor Peter Panitzke	Ext. 122	ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 350-1436
Pastor Nate Strobel	Ext. 293	nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 426-8236

Or you may contact us anytime via our website [here](#).

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY WITH US!

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile”
(1 Corinthians 15:17).

Let God’s Word continue to give you an answer to this great
“if” of Easter.



Join us in the following weeks as we see the change...as we see the “then” that Jesus’ resurrection brings to our lives:

- Then I live a new life – 1 Peter 1:17-25 (April 26)
- Then I entrust my life to the Good Shepherd – 1 Peter 2:19-25 (May 3)
- Then I live a meaningful life – 1 Peter 2:4-10 (May 10)
- Then I live always prepared to answer – 1 Peter 3:15-22 (May 17)
- Then I will end my life well – 1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11 (May 24)

Online Worship

All online worship resources are available on our [website](#).

We encourage you to participate in worship at the time you would normally worship. The worship folders for all services are available for download on our website for you to follow along.

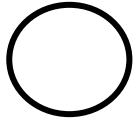
The Bridge, our modern/casual worship experience, is shown live on Sundays at 10:15 am on The Bridge [website](#), Facebook at The Bridge at St. Paul’s, and now also on our [You Tube channel](#). The service is also available for viewing later at any time on each platform.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, please don’t hesitate to contact one of our pastors or use the contact form at the bottom of our [website](#). We have a team of dedicated prayer warriors ready to pray for you. If you would like to keep your prayer requests confidential among the pastors, check the applicable box.



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Connector Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

The Scattered Church is the Chosen Church

1. Read I Peter 1:1-2. How does Peter's reference to us being chosen by the Father's foreknowledge make you feel?
2. Read Ephesians 1:3-8. When did God the Father choose you?
3. The doctrine of election or God's choosing us is revealed "to the praise of his glorious grace." How does the fact that the Father chose you before you were born emphasize that you are saved by grace (i.e. God's love that we have not earned)?
4. Read Romans 8:28-30. How does this passage make clear that God's choosing of you is the cause of your being called to faith?
5. What comfort do you have because you have been called according to God's plan? (Focus on verse 28.)
6. Read Matthew 24:22-25. What comfort does Jesus give to us, God's elect or chosen ones, as he speaks about the end of the world?
7. What if you are afraid that you are not one of the elect? Focus on the universal desire of our God to save us. How does each of the following passages assure you that God desires that you be in heaven with him?

John 1:29

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

I Timothy 2:3-4

God our Savior... wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points

“If... then...”

If Jesus has risen, then the scattered church lives in hope.

I Peter 1:1-9

1. A unifying hope

- a. Chosen by the _____
- b. Set apart by the _____
- c. Sprinkled by the _____

2. An eternal hope

- a. This hope is an _____
- b. This hope cannot _____
- c. This hope is _____

3. An enduring hope

- a. This hope is protected by _____
- b. This hope focuses on what will be _____
- c. This hope proves the _____ of your faith.

My Next Steps

Answer the “If” of Easter: If you have not already done so, read the Easter accounts. Cross examine the witnesses by comparing the accounts. Like independent witnesses, each adds details the others do not.

Dig Deeper: If you enjoy murder mysteries, you will enjoy *Cold Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospel* by J. Warner Wallace.

- Purchase it here: <https://www.amazon.com/Cold-Case-Christianity-Homicide-Detective-Investigates/dp/1434704696>
- Watch a presentation here: <https://youtu.be/oN2EKL7E2Vg?t=144>

Claim the “Then” of Easter: Read I Peter several times over the next few weeks. The goal of Peter’s letter is to help Christians apply the resurrection truth to their lives. Ask yourself over and over, “If Jesus has risen, then how does that change my life?”