

5th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21 / Philippians 3:4b-14 / John 12:1-8 4-7-19

“I Press Onward Toward the Goal”

- A. The First Reading – God’s priorities....
- B. The Second Reading – Paul’s priorities....
- C. The Gospel Reading – Mary’s / Judas’ / Jesus’ priorities....
- D.what do the texts mean for Christians today?

A Luther Sermon Quote: [In his exposition of Galatians 1:14, Luther writes in 1531] *If anyone had pious regard and zeal for the papistical laws and the traditions of the fathers I certainly did before the light of the Gospel arose. And with great earnestness I urged and defended those laws and traditions as holy and their observance as necessary for salvation....* (Luther is an echo here of St. Paul in the Second Reading for today) *....But whatever I did. I did in the simplicity of my heart, in pious zeal, and for the glory of God. “But what things were gain to me: those I now with Paul count “loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, My Lord”* (Phil. 3:7-8) (Plass, What Luther Says, 2598, p. 834f)

(Day by Day We Magnify Thee, From the sermon on the Sacrament of the Body of Christ, 1519, p. 370.)

Palm Sunday

Luke 22:14-23:56 4-14-19

“The Gospel of Luke: Jesus Entry into Jerusalem”

A Luther Sermon Quote: (This is one of Luther’s prayers.) *O Father, with your divine Word comfort me, a poor and miserable wretch. I cannot bear your hand, and yet I know that it works to my damnation if I do not bear it. Therefore strengthen me, my Father, lest I despair. Amen.* (Daily Readings from Luther’s

Easter Sunday

John 20:11-18 4-21-19

“Encounters with Jesus – Mary and the Risen Jesus”

A. What Mary Magdalene gained and lost with Jesus’ resurrection....

B. What we gain and lose today....

A Luther Sermon Quotation: (This is one of Luther’s prayers.) *O Father, with your divine Word comfort me, a poor and miserable wretch. I cannot bear your hand, and yet I know that it works to my damnation if I do not bear it. Therefore strengthen my, my Father, lest I despair. Amen. (Daily Readings from Luther’s Writings. Ed.: Barbara Owen p. 83)*

Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31 4-28-19

SEEING WITH YOUR EARS

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”
John 20:29b

“Seeing with your ears” – can you think of examples? How, for instance, might this apply to a person who is visually impaired or blind?

As Jesus interacts with “doubting Thomas” how might the concept of “seeing with your ears” apply?

- Would physical sight of the resurrected Jesus be of particular advantage to knowing Jesus as Savior?
- How did faith in the resurrected Jesus as his Savior come to Thomas?

What is additional good news that comes to us from Jesus' encounter with Thomas?

“There is no other way or means to obtain the forgiveness of sins than by the Word . . . For our Lord God has made forgiveness of sins depend on no work which we do but solely on the work of Christ, on Christ's suffering and death. This work, however, He has, through the Word placed into the mouth of apostles and the ministers of His church, yea, in case of need, into the mouths of all Christians, so that through the Word they should distribute forgiveness of sins and announce it to all who desire it.”

Edwin Plass, *What Luther Says*, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO, 1959, #1554, p. 516.