

*TODAY'S FOCUS*

With a triumph as glorious as Jesus' Easter resurrection, you could be forgiven for imagining the story ends with "and they lived happily ever after." Through Jesus we do get to live "forever after," but first comes the birth and growth of God's gift, His Church. **We continue an eight-week series on the book of Acts as we realize it takes more than joy to start and sustain a church family--we need the power of God!**

**+ PREPARATION +**

*LSB 475 GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE AND SING* sts. 1, 3–4

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Praise we in songs of victory

That love, that life which cannot die,

And sing with hearts uplifted high:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,

And sing today with one accord

The life laid down, the life restored:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 16:11b; 30:1–3

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- P** In Your presence there is fullness of joy;
- C** **at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**
- P** I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up
- C** **and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**
- P** O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.
- C** **O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION 1 John 3:1; Psalm 30:4–5; 16:11b

- P** “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” Gracious Lord, by Your name You have called us Your own children, and we are to pray, praise, and give thanks to You.
- C** **Yet we often choose not to see the love You have given to us, letting other things of this world impede our vision of Your mercy and grace in Christ. We do not always live as You have called us to be as Your children.**

**P** We confess our sins to God in repentance, turning from those things that lead us away, turning back to You in the love You've shown.

*Silence for reflection.*

**P** Almighty and ever-compassionate Lord,

**C** **we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess our many failures as we have not followed You joyfully and trustingly. We have not loved others as You have first loved us, and our thoughts, words, and deeds have not been pleasing to You. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.**

**P** Sing praises to the Lord, O you His saints,

**C** **and give thanks to His holy name.**

**P** For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.

**C** **Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

**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.**

**P** In Your presence there is fullness of joy;

**C** **at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

**P** “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As His children, may He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a renewed life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Alleluia!  
Christ is risen!

**G He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

*LSB 808 O SING TO THE LORD*

sts. 1, 4–5

- 1 O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.  
O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.  
O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.  
O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
- 4 O shout to our God, Who gave us the Spirit.  
O shout to our God, Who gave us the Spirit.  
O shout to our God, Who gave us the Spirit.  
O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
- 5 For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!  
For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!  
For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!  
O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

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## *SALUTATION*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** **And also with you.**

## *PRAYER OF THE DAY*

**P** Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** **Amen.**

## **+ WORD +**

### *FIRST READING*

Acts 1:4–14 NIV

<sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## *EPISTLE*

Romans 8:5–16 NIV

<sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*HOLY GOSPEL*

John 14:15–27 NIV

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept

him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

<sup>22</sup> Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> “All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



- 1 The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad,  
The passover of gladness,  
The passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
From sin's dominion free,  
Our Christ has brought us over  
With hymns of victory.
- 2 Let hearts be purged of evil  
That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal  
Of resurrection light  
And, list'ning to His accents,  
May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
May raise the victor strain.
- 3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful,  
Let earth its song begin,  
Let all the world keep triumph  
And all that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen,  
Their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen,  
Our joy that has no end!

*SERMON: ACTING ON OUR FAITH, PART 2: THE POWER WE RECEIVE*

*APOSTLES' CREED*

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence 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.**

*OUR PRAYERS*

**+ SACRAMENT +**

*INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION*

## *HAVE MERCY ON ME*

1 Lamb of God, You take away  
The sin of the world.  
Lamb of God, You take away  
The sin of the world. **CHORUS**

### **Chorus:**

**Lord, have mercy,  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.  
Lord, have mercy,  
Christ, have mercy;  
Have mercy on me.**

2 Lamb of God, I'm asking You  
To take away my sin.  
I confess that I've done wrong,  
I need Your help again. **CHORUS**

3 The precious blood of Jesus Christ  
Cleanses me from sin.  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ  
Cleanses me from sin. **FINAL CHORUS**

### **Final Chorus:**

**Lord, have mercy,  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.  
Lord, have mercy,  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.**

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## *LORD'S PRAYER*

**G** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## *WORDS OF OUR LORD*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## *POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER*

### *BENEDICTION*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**G** Amen.

*LSB 801 HOW GREAT THOU ART*

sts. 1, ref, 3–4

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; **Refrain**

**ref Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

3 But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin; **Refrain**

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!” **Refrain**

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