

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Cudahy, Wisconsin

## March 29, 2020

What is your only comfort in life and death? For centuries, believers have learned the Christian faith beginning with that question. Why start there? Unless Jesus returns first, we will all die. To find comfort in life, we must know how we can face death. Hope comes only in trusting the One who died to take the curse of death and who crushed the power of death by his resurrection. "Christ has been raised from the dead" (1 Cor 15:20). That is the only statement that can transform how we live each day and how we prepare for our earthly life to end.

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### CALL TO WORSHIP – "Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"

"Christ Our Hope in Life and Death" is a song that is honest about death. There is no need to avoid mentioning death in our hymns, because we know the Living One who has conquered death forever. The Christian can sing hallelujah, because Christ assures us of our glorious future.

What is our hope in life and death?  
Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to him belong.  
Who holds our days within his hand?  
What comes, apart from his command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good.  
Where is his grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood.  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?  
"Christ, he lives; Christ, he lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with him.  
There we will rise to meet the Lord,  
Then sin and death will be destroyed,  
And we will feast in endless joy,  
When Christ is ours forevermore.

## INVOCATION

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

**C: Amen.**

## CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## PRAYER

M: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON – Luke 11:17-37

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup> “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

<sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” <sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met

him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

<sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

#### HYMN OF THE DAY – “What Wondrous Love Is This” (120)

- 1) What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
  
- 2) And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;  
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.  
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing his love for me,  
And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,  
And through eternity I’ll sing on.

#### TODAY’S MESSAGE – JOHN 11:38-45

<sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

<sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

**“CHRISTIANITY IS CORRECT!”**

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 - LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: In the morning hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve you and worship you, we pray, O Lord:

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

M: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For our first responders, medical care givers and public servants, who work day and night to bring protection and health to our community and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:

**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

M: For favorable spring weather, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:

**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:

**C: Thanks be to God.**

M: In thanksgiving for the variety of your gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord. Amen.

#### SPECIAL REQUESTS / LORD'S PRAYER / BLESSING

#### CLOSING HYMN – "Jesus Lives the Victory's Won" (145)

- 1) Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me.  
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave Christ will recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence;  
This shall be my confidence.
- 2) Jesus lives! And now is death But the gate to life immortal;  
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal.  
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:

**“Jesus is my confidence!”**