



BLESSED SACRAMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“God had made the Lord Jesus Christ the first-fruits by raising him from the dead.” — Clement of Rome. (c. 96), 1.11.

Dear Saints,

Second Sunday of Easter (Quasimodo Geniti) 11 April 2021

The celebration of Easter does not end with Easter of course. The implications of the resurrection of the Son of God are far-reaching, touching on every aspect of human living and careening the universe in a stunning new direction — that of the new creation in which the Father reigns through the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit. In the next three weeks, St. John will explore some of the implications of the resurrection, especially for Christians as they consider how to live in the present and what is in store for us in the future. It turns out that resurrection life defines both dimensions of time for the Christian.

The ancient Jews believed that world history was divided into two periods, or “ages”: There was “the present age”, which was full of misery and suffering, injustice and oppression; and there was “the age to come”, the time when God would sort out the destructive forces enslaving the world and put everything to right, and would in particular rescue His people from the evil they had suffered.

There have been problems translating the word rendered in English “eternal” or “eternity.” This translation, as opposed to the word “age,” gives the impression of something “purely spiritual,” and therefore a designation for time completely divorced from the world of space, time and matter. However, that would be incorrect. “Age” is the preferred translation, because it references the “new age,” that is, the “age to come” — the age of the kingdom, about which Christ and, later, Paul and John proclaimed. It’s a future referent, not fully present but nevertheless present in part and by degrees.

The important point is that with the resurrection of Jesus the Son, “God has provided an advance display of this future! God has kept the age to come under wraps, as it were, waiting to reveal it at the right time,” in the words of N T Wright. The announcement circulating among the earliest Christians was that age had dawned at the point of the resurrection of Christ. And here is the astonishing part: It happened here on Earth, in the midst of the time dimension in which we live. Heaven and Earth overlap in resurrection life and that life was now spilling out of the baptismal font into the lives of the baptized. The future of humanity was being melded to the present in and through Holy Baptism, where resurrection life was being dispensed. It was not merely a quantity of time (i.e., the forever and ever and ever kind-of-life) but a quality of existence — the divine life. Resurrection life is the sharing in the life of Christ—the resurrected One—in the here and now.

The very idea of God's new life becoming a person and stepping forward out of the future into the present is so enormous, so breathtaking, that a tone of wonder, of hushed awe and reverence, becomes appropriate, maybe necessary.

The combination of the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection mean that the present is transformed for ever and transformed by the gifts He has left us, supremely with Holy

Apr. 11	Second S. of Easter (Quasimodo Geniti)	Ezek. 37:1-14	Psalm 33	1 John 5:4-10	John 20:19-31
Apr. 18	Third S. of Easter (Misericordias Domini)	Ezek. 34:11-16	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:21-25	John 10:11-16

Communion.

***Sec. Sun. of Easter** 11 April. Color: White. Processional 457; Kyrie; This is the Feast. Hymn of the Day 471; Psalm 31 chanted responsively during distribution; Distribution Hymn: 444; Post-Communion Cantic: Thank the Lord; Recessional 467. Sermon: Jeremiah 37.1-14, "Bone Dry."

***Third. Sun. of Easter** 18 April. Color: White.

Misericordias Domini is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Processional 464; Kyrie; This is the Feast. Hymn of the Day 711; Psalm 23 chanted responsively during distribution; Distribution Hymn: 709; Post-Communion Cantic: Thank the Lord; Recessional 477. Sermon: Psalm 23, "Shepherd with an Attitude."

Catechesis. Sundays for all from 1400 - 1445: "Where Heaven and Earth Meet."

Session 4: Entering the World of the Psalms with Christian Eyes

Session 5: At the Threshold of God's Time

UPCOMING:

- (1) Our Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, will be visiting Blessed Sacrament this Sunday. He is scheduled to preach while Pastor Bombaro serves as the Celebrant.
- (2) Pastor at the International Center in St. Louis Tues-Thurs 13-15 April.
- (3) Military honors and committal for the late Thomas Hankins at Washington State Veterans Cemetery, Medicine Lake. Pr. John Presiding @ 1415 Friday 16 April.
- (4) *Confirmation Catechesis 4:30pm resumes Thursday 21 April.*

Gratefully yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor John