



THE PILGRIMAGE

The newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (LCMS), Broadway at Florey, Kilgore, Texas

April 2019

We glorify God by receiving the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and sharing that salvation through word and deed with those in our midst, in our community, and throughout the world.

Easter is our “spring of souls”

As I have been appreciating the coming of Spring and thinking about the upcoming Easter season, an English line from John of Damascus’s original Greek hymn translated, in large part by John Mason Neale, as “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain” (*Lutheran Service Book* 487) has been running through my mind: “’Tis the spring of souls today: / Christ has burst His prison”. The soul of every person at least potentially gets a new “lease on life” with the resurrection of our Lord!

The stanza goes on to refer both to the long and dark winter of our sins flying from His light and so, as a result, also to our giving undying laud and praise to Him. The hymn, which goes back to the eighth century, is replete with such parallels drawn between the season of Spring and the Easter season, not to mention parallels drawn between God’s through Moses delivering the Israelites from slavery to Egypt’s Pharaoh through the Red Sea and God’s through Jesus delivering His Church, the new Israel, including us, from slavery to sin through Baptism.

Regarded as the greatest of the Greek Church’s hymn-writers, John of Damascus based the hymn on a portion of a prayer appointed for the Sunday after Easter, which itself was based on the song of Moses in Exodus 15. (One annotation of the hymn lists some 30 other passages behind the five stanzas of the hymn as we have it.) Interestingly, this particular hymn of John of Damascus calls God’s people together to praise Him for His delivering us from sin, while the only other hymn of John of Damascus’s that we have in *Lutheran Service Book*, similarly using other Old Testament to New Testament motifs, in effect sends us out to tell abroad the Lord’s resurrection as a greater Passover (*LSB* 478).

Incidentally, while John of Damascus’s “calling” text was included in the Missouri Synod’s 1941 hymnal, *The Lutheran Hymnal*, as “Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain” (#204), it appeared there with a different tune, SCHWING DICH AUF. In the Synod’s 1969 *Worship Supplement* (#739) and the 1982 *Lutheran Worship* (#141), different versions of the hymn text,

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more along the lines of what we have in *Lutheran Service Book*, appear with a different tune, GAUDEAMUS PARITER, what has been called a “joyous rhythmic chorale” that had first appeared with a completely different hymn back in 1544 and may originally have been a traditional German tune. Similarly, John of Damascus’s “sending” text has been included in the same four worship resources, but that hymn’s change from the tune LANCASHIRE (*TLH* #205) to HERZLICH TUT MICH ERFREUEN (*WS* #739 and *LW* #133), reportedly an attempt to retrieve and perpetuate the use of that tune from the Lutheran heritage, was later undone (*LSB* 487).

The greater our appreciation of the bitter yoke of our slavery to sin, the greater our appreciation of our Lord’s delivering us from it. If we wrongly think that our sinful nature and our actual sin were not too severe, then we wrongly under-appreciate what Jesus did to rescue us from it. If we wrongly think that we contribute something to our own salvation, then we wrongly take away glory that He deserves for completely saving us. In fact, we by nature are dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1, 5), but God the Father, Who loves us anyway, acts to save us. For us, the God-man Jesus Christ suffered in our place the death that we otherwise deserved to suffer, and the Holy Spirit calls and enables us to turn in sorrow away from our sin and to trust God to forgive our sin for Jesus’s sake.

The grave not only was unable to hold Jesus, but also, as a result, the grave will be unable to hold us. So, already now, as He forgives our sins through His Word and Sacraments, Jesus, John of Damascus’s “calling” hymn says, gives us His deep peace that passes human knowing. From sadness over our sin, God brings us into joy, triumphant gladness, that He gives to faithful hearts, which respond not only at Easter but always with unwearied strains of praise!

Previously faithful or not, all are always welcome to come raise such strains of praise at Pilgrim, but especially this month as Lent finishes its course with special services in Holy Week and as the Easter season begins with a special service and other activities. See the calendar in this newsletter for dates and times of all Pilgrim’s services and other activities. And, invite your family, friends, coworkers, classmates, and anyone else you would like to invite to join you here.

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*



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	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
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DAILY BIBLE READING	
1	Isaiah 25:1-9 Romans 1-3
2	Ps. 114 Romans 4-6
3	Ps. 115 Romans 7-9
4	Ps. 116 Romans 10-13
5	Ps. 117 Romans 14-16
6	Ps. 118 1 Cor. 1-3
7	Ps. 119:1-8 1 Cor. 4-6
8	Ps. 119:9-16 1 Cor. 7-9
9	Ps. 119:17-24 1 Cor. 10-11
10	Ps. 119:25-32 1 Cor. 12-14
11	Ps. 119:33-40 1 Cor. 15-16
12	Ps. 119:41-48 2 Cor. 1-4
13	Ps. 119:49-56 2 Cor. 5-7
14	Ps. 119:57-64 2 Cor. 8-10
15	Ps. 119:65-72 2 Cor. 11-13
16	Ps. 119:73-80 Galatians 1-3
17	Ps. 119:81-88 Galatians 4-6
18	Ps. 119:89-96 Ephesians 1-3
19	Ps. 119:97-104 Ephesians 4-6
20	Ps. 119:105-112 Philippians 1-2
21	Ps. 119:113-120 Philippians 3-4
22	Ps. 119:121-128 Colossians 1-2
23	Ps. 119:129-136 Colossians 3-4
24	Ps. 119:137-144 1 Thessalonians 1-3
25	Ps. 119:145-152 1 Thessalonians 4-5
26	Ps. 119:153-160 2 Thessalonians 1-3
27	Ps. 119:161-168 1 Timothy 1-3
28	Ps. 119:169-176 1 Timothy 4-6
29	Ps. 120 2 Timothy 1-2
30	Isaiah 25:1-9 2 Timothy 3-4



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Pilgrim Lutheran Church

www.pilgrimlc.org
903-984-4333

Pastor's Regular Study Hours
 Tuesday 5:00–8:00 PM
 Wednesday–Friday 9:00 AM–Noon
 Saturday Noon–3:00 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Remember March 31's Fifth-Sunday Lunch after the Divine Service!</i></p>	<p>1 5:30 PM Quilting, 6:30 PM LWML Supper and Bible Study</p>	<p>2 Noon Kilgore Ministerial Fellowship Lunch</p>	<p>3 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers</p>	<p>4 Pastor Galler at Plano Study Group Tiffani Erickson (B) M/M Remo Gualtieri (A)</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Adult Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service</p>	<p>8 M/M Jim Treadway (A)</p>	<p>9 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting</p>	<p>10 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers Carolyn Holcombe (B)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Work Day</p>
<p>14 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Adult Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Colleen Hooge (B)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY (W) 7:00 PM Divine Service</p>	<p>19 GOOD FRIDAY (Bare) 7:00 PM Divine Service</p>	<p>20 10:00 AM Willows Service (come at 9:45 to help) Work Day (rain day)</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> First Presbyterian's Men's Prayer Breakfasts 7:00-8:00 a.m. </div>						
<p>21 THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (W) 7:00 AM "Son-rise" Matins 8:00 AM Easter Breakfast 9:00 AM Egg Hunt 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Adult Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 M/M David Navaille (A)</p>	<p>24 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 8:30 AM–12:30 PM Quarterly Blood Drive</p>
<p>28 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Adult Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Quarterly Council Meeting</p>	<p>29 Nicole Hinson (B)</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Elder On Duty – Jeromy McMurray Cleaning Volunteers – <i>Adopt a task or room!</i></p>			

***"Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."
(1 Corinthians 15:20 ESV)***

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Pastor Galler is the editor of **The Pilgrimage**. Volunteers assist with distributing editions. Everyone is welcome to contribute articles at any time, and a regular assistant editor is desired to return the newsletter to its previous more-expansive form. All copyright holders of excerpted or reproduced materials are hereby acknowledged, and such materials are used in good faith under fair use provisions.