

In a world of falsehood, 'fake news' has a way of hanging on, a bit like urban legends. When the Roman soldiers returned from 'guarding' the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, they returned with a fantastic eye-witness account. They reported to the Jewish religious leadership that an angel descended from heaven and rolled away the stone from the tomb they were guarding. The body was gone. The Jewish Sanhedrin was concerned.

So they twisted their own narrative, one of the first real examples of 'fake news.' The soldiers were paid to tell people that 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' When people asked how they knew it was the disciples if they were asleep, they'd have to come up with another lie.

How do you find out if something is true or false? The source matters, doesn't it. Our God doesn't play with the truth. He has left us in His Word all the evidence necessary to see that Jesus is alive. We can, through the eye-witness accounts of the gospel writers, look into the tomb and see for ourselves that Jesus lives. There is plenty of falsehood out there. Here is truth that you can rest your life on: "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said."

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids His rise;
Christ has opened Paradise.

(The Lutheran Hymnal, 193:3)

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Easter 5

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**MAKE A JOYFUL
NOISE INTO THE
LORD ALL THE
EARTH!**



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Ps. 66:1-8

¹ Shout for joy to God, all the earth; ² sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! ³ Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. ⁴ All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name." Selah ⁵ Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. ⁶ He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him, ⁷ who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations-- let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah ⁸ Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: WS #747:1,5

"Earth and All Stars"

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

G Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from *conception*. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

G Amen!

HYMN: TLH #360:1-6

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER, and BENEDICTION

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

G Amen!

HYMN: TLH #469

"Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"

Matthew 28:11-15 (NKJV) Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Fake News

Well, unless you have been living under a rock, you've heard all about 'fake news.' It's an expression that has been coined to describe falsehood reported in the news. The expression is at times sadly accurate because some clearly have an agenda and set out to misquote and smear others. (On the other hand, the same expression can be used to dismiss truth and accurate reporting by those who just don't want to hear it.) Let's face it— just because something is written in black and white doesn't mean that it's true. God's Word is the only completely reliable source of truth.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles.

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.

HYMN: TLH #10:1-3 "This is the Day the Lord has Made"

SERMON – Isaiah 12 You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ²"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵"Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

"Do You Hear the People Sing?"

- I. Don't ask "Who" is singing the song
- II. Instead ask "Why" they're singing the song

OFFERTORY

WS p.16

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

- ☞** **♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

INTROIT

Ps. 98

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- ☞** Sing to the LORD a new song, Alleluia, for He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. Alleluia.
- ☞** His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.
- ☞** He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- ☞** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

LORD, HAVE MERCY and GLORY TO GOD



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

EPISTLE READING – Acts 5:17-25 But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." ²¹ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, ²³ "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. ²⁵ And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people."

GOSPEL READING – John 8:21-35 So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." ²² So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come?'" ²³ He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." ²⁵ So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. ²⁶ I have

much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." ²⁷ They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. ²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." ³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him. ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that
Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

SING
SONGS
OF PRAISE.