



He is Risen, Just as He Said!

On November 9, 2014, Easter came home to me. I don't mean in a "literal" sense, as if our risen Lord made a physical appearance at my front door- but it was real, nonetheless. As a matter of fact, we weren't even home that day; we were in Jerusalem. It was early Sunday morning. Bev and I were part of a touring group that was completing the famed Via Dolorosa and the stations of the cross—the supposed path on which Jesus carried the cross to where He was crucified. Marlin, our tour guide and teacher, scheduled us as early in the morning as possible, so that we could maintain a devotional mindset while navigating the streets of the Old City, without the noise of the crowds.

We took our time, reading scripture passages aloud and praying as we stopped at each station. We reached the 14th and final station- the Tomb of Jesus- shortly before 8 a.m. One thing to keep in mind as you try to picture this scene is that our route ended up on the roof of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, just above the site of the empty tomb. The roof space is walkable and can accommodate a number of people. It's also quieter and less populated than the Tomb itself, which usually requires waiting in a long line to get in. Besides the domes and parapets that make up the roof architecture, the other significant roof feature is that there's a side-door entrance into the Ethiopian Orthodox chapel, by which you can access the main floor of Holy Sepulcher Church. As we arrived on the roof, we were encountered by a lone figure, a little Ethiopian girl in a pure white dress and athletic shoes, standing outside the entrance to her church, waiting for the service to begin. She looked angelic! She spoke not a word, but in a strange way, she welcomed us. Could it be, that the angel at the empty tomb who greeted the women, might have taken on the form of a dear child, such as this?

One of our group was assigned to read aloud the resurrection account from Matt. 28. The angel says, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **He is not here, for He has risen...**" At that exact moment, the huge carillon rang- remember: we were on the roof! It continued to ring, and as it did, the sound of smaller bells and singing could be heard. All this broke upon us with such power that some of our party began to weep. The marvelous synchronicity of our little spiritual exercise with the tolling of the carillon was stunning.

Sometimes this is how God works. We need to be careful about saying that "God arranged all of this", although the message "He has risen" certainly came to us with power that day. But think about what God arranged the day Jesus was crucified. We are told that when the veil which was Jesus' mortal body expired, the veil of the Temple, which separated humanity from the Most Holy Place where God made His presence known, was torn in two, from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:38, Luke 23:45). The sun was darkened; the earth shook. Creation itself was in synchronicity with the death of our Lord!

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Pastor Eric's Installation Service on Sunday, May 21, at 3 pm



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The day of Christ's resurrection is a different matter. Nothing remarkable accompanied the most earth-shattering event of history- no angel choirs as at Jesus' birth, no instantaneous greening of the earth (though it was early spring), no saints bursting forth from their tombs (Matthew 27: 52), and certainly no carillon. Instead, we are left with this simple, stand-alone, absolutely historical reality: Jesus died and was placed in the Tomb. On the third day, He walked out. This changes everything, for us who believe, and for the world!

Of course, God can orchestrate amazing conversion "coincidences", as He did with Augustine, who, while puzzling about the direction of his life heard an unseen boy singing "Take and read", while there on the table lay a copy of the book of Romans. But the Lord doesn't need to arrange a trip to Jerusalem, an angelic little girl or a carillon to stun you into resurrection faith. **The Word of God, through preaching and Sacrament, can accomplish this!** And we the church are that community, borne of Christ's bleeding side, who proclaim that Easter has indeed come home to us- who want to tell the world, "Christ is risen!" With that proclamation, there will be plenty of instances of conversion, in which someone will say, "I felt as though the Lord was speaking to me personally", or "It's a miracle, how God entered my life at just the moment He did." God's intervention in our lives is a more frequent experience than we know! Perhaps now, as we find ourselves in a post-pandemic world, we can see that the Risen Christ is in our midst after all; He is and ever will be. **Resurrection power has not left the Church- and that includes Christ the King Lutheran Church!**

May our risen Savior grant you a grace-filled Easter season this year. Dear church, endeavor to live in this resurrection reality, so that you may share the Good News with all who ask about the hope in you. He has risen, just as He said!

Blessings and peace in the name of Jesus Christ! Pastor Eric

Year-To-Date General
Fund Budget Totals as of
2/28/23

GF Offering: \$15,685.99

GF Budget: \$20,803.50

Short: (\$5,117.51)

GF Offering: \$15,685.99

GF Expense: \$13,223.01

GF Net \$2,462.98

DESIGNATED FUNDS

YTD & Carried Forward Designated Funds (as of February 2023):

Building:	1,381.01
Adult Education:	38.27
Sunday School:	206.22
Scholarship:	294.88
Youth Group:	1,062.74
Memorial:	6,151.68
Mission tithe:	4,479.99
Mission Offering:	0.00
Quilters:	1,332.80
Property:	780.78
Property Sub Account	
Building Impr.	1,630.00
A.C. Fund	\$ 300.00
Pastor's Fund	5,000.00
Audio/Visual:	4,474.10
Evangelism:	13.23
Evangelism Sub Acct	
Pastor's Moving	5,160.00
Light House Worship	11,867.24
Office Tech. Fund	166.68
Worship Fund:	<u>726.49</u>
TOTAL DESIGNATED	45,066.11

WOW

For the WOW meeting, Saturday, April 8, 9:30 a.m., the Faith Fellowship group will be serving and for Sunday morning Fellowship during the month of April, the Love Fellowship group will host.

Woman of the Word will be meeting Saturday, April 8, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am, for Fellowship and a relevant Bible Study focusing on Easter with Pastor Eric. A short business meeting will follow the Bible Study. Please join us as we prepare our hearts for the Easter celebration!

Just a reminder: **The Soap Box in the narthex** is an ongoing ministry and people are in need of these personal items as much as ever. The personal items we take for granted (soap, toothpaste, wash cloths, etc., on a daily basis) are like gold to those who do not have them. The Minnesota Action Council representative sincerely thanks you for your caring and generosity.

Biblical Roots of Common Phrases

Phrase: “Fight the Good Fight.”

Meaning: Do your best; do what is morally right; the phrase refers to doing something righteous and keeping at it!

Origins: In Second Timothy we have St. Paul’s parting guidance to his disciple Timothy. This is Paul’s last known letter, written with special emphasis on faithfully teaching the Word in opposition to false teachers. Martin Luther refers to this epistle as St. Paul’s “farewell letter”.

In 2 Timothy 4:7 we read: “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” (KJV) In this verse St. Paul is telling Timothy that he and all Christians are engaged in an ongoing contest in which sound doctrine is advanced against the forces of darkness and evil. In short, someone who is fighting the good fight is working tirelessly to try and make good choices and help others. That is, Christians should fight to improve the world around them.

Today, while few people could quote the original verse from the Bible, we know the line best because of the hymn “*Fight the Good Fight*” written by Samuel Bewley Monnell in 1863, in which he gives advice about how to lead a good Christian way of life . .

. Stanza One Reads:

“Fight the good fight with all thy might!
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.”

St. Paul’s message to Timothy in 68 A.D. is still good advice for Christians today . .
. we are called to keep the faith and fight the good fight!

(King James Version & Lutheran Study Bible, Great Songs of Faith, Word and Phrase Origins, 3rd ed.)

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR! May 21, 3:00 pm at Christ the King Lutheran Church — Installation Service for Pastor Eric. Light luncheon to follow.



CHOIR: Choir practice will go back to 6:30 practice Wednesdays. Newcomers are more than welcome to come join us!!!

THERE ARE MANY COMMITTEES AND GROUPS FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN AT OUR CHURCH. ALL COMMITTEES AND GROUPS COULD USE MORE PEOPLE. THIS IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO GIVE OF YOUR TIME & TALENTS. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING. NO INVITATION NEEDED, JUST SHOW UP.

PROPERTY:
APRIL 4, 6:30PM

WORSHIP:
APRIL 5, 5:00 PM

SAT., APRIL 8
MEN’S BIBLE: 8 AM
WOW: 9:30 AM

EVANGELISM
APRIL 25, 6:30PM

EDUCATION:
APRIL 25, 6:30PM

QUILTERS:
TUESDAYS 10:00AM-3PM

CHOIR:
WEDNESDAYS , 6:30PM

USHERS:
NEEDED MONTHLY .
CONTACT GARRY HUCKFELDT, CHURCH OFFICE OR SIGN-UP GENIUS.

READERS:
READ DURING SERVICES ON A ROTATION.
CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE.

GREETERS FOR APRIL

April 2: Betty Gransee & Kay Marie Rahman

April 9: Roger & Wendy Mann

April 16: Alice Siems & Kristy Jenzen

April 23: Betty Gransee & Kay Marie Rahman

April 30: Betty Gransee & Marlene Good

APRIL USHERS are needed for both services.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGE

Beginning Palm Sunday, April 2nd, we will return to having 2 Sunday morning worship services — Traditional at 8:30 am and Contemporary at 10:45 am with Sunday School from 9:45 until 10:30 and Fellowship between services. **We need ushers for the 2 services so please be sure to sign up to help.** We are looking forward to having two worship services again and hope we'll have a good turnout for the Fellowship time between services.

EASTER IS UPON US!!!

This is a very exciting time of year in the Christian church. We start with Palm Sunday and we hope you will come worship with us on this Sunday, followed by Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then with the Easter celebration of our Lord's resurrection! By attending all of these services, you will be a part of this very important story, so please join us Palm Sunday, 8:30 or 10:45 am, Maundy Thursday (4/6) at 6:30 p.m., Good Friday (4/7) at 6:30 p.m. and Easter Sunday at 8:30 or 10:45 am. He is risen, He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!!

Women of Christ the King are invited to participate in a Biblical retreat full of laughter, learning, stories, and music Saturday, May 6, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Group tickets (10 or more need to be registered) are \$20.00 each for the three hours of entertainment sponsored by Aspire and the sign-up deadline is April 30. Checks may be made out to Women of the Word and given to Peggy Olson, Karen Neu, or Naomi Easton. If 10 women do not register, your check will be returned to you and you can order your ticket for \$28.00 by calling 1-480-812-1100 or picking it up at the church prior to the event. The show is held at Redemption Church, 123 E. Main Street, Owatonna. You can invite your friends to join us. Please see the poster on the table in the Gathering Area or the bulletin board by the Pastor's office for more details.

BIBLE STUDIES WITH PASTOR ERIC!

We have many opportunities to join in on a Bible Study: Men's Wednesday morning Bible Study at 7:00 am and the Women's morning Bible Study Thursday mornings at 9:30 am. Once a month the men meet the 2nd Saturday for morning / breakfast & Bible study at 8:00 am and the women follow with WOW at 9:30 am. Then Bibles and Brew is back the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at the Ward House Brewery, 7:00 pm.

We hope you will take in one (or more) of these Bible studies — Pastor Er is looking forward to getting to know everybody and hopes you will come join him.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SHOUT-OUT!!!

Each month we're going to give a "shout out" to the Sunday School kid(s) who get their memory work done. This month's shout-out goes to Eli Jenzen for memorizing the Lord's Prayer!!!! KUDOS TO YOU, Eli!!!

