



Risen Christ Lutheran Church

May 21, 2023 9:30am

**YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY.  
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



Today's Sermon: "We are People of Promise!  
We're Promised Struggles, Hope, and Blessings!"

**ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION** – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

**OFFERING** – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info)

**A WORD TO OUR GUESTS** – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

**Large Print Bulletins** – Available from an usher.

**Listening Assistance Devices** – Available at the Sound Booth.

**Parent Room** – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

**For Children** – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

**As We Gather** - We don’t like to suffer. In fact, there are times when we feel the slightest pain and we start feeling like we are being persecuted. We would much rather have God shatter those we perceive to be our enemies than deal with anything resembling suffering. When God deals with our “enemies,” then, we will sing God’s praises. But sometimes life is hard and sometimes it is hard because we are Christians, and our adversary, “the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Jesus once said, “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:11–12). This same Jesus prayed for us, that our holy Father would keep us in His name. He knew suffering and is now experiencing glory. When we suffer because of our Christian faith, we share Christ’s suffering and because He suffered, died, and rose again, we, too, will share that experience and join Him in His glory.

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Invocation**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## Crown Him with Many Crowns



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
 2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,  
 3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,  
 4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.  
 Whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won Which now His brow a-dorn:  
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.  
 Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
 Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The  
 No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But  
 His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who  
 Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.  
 Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

## Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, confident that He will hear and forgive us for Jesus' sake.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we have not always been proud to bear Your name. At times, we crumble in the face of the trials that come our way. We allow worries and anxieties to crowd out Your caring presence. Keep us in Your name, which You have given us in Baptism, and forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake.**
- P** Our God hears our prayers and forgives our sins because of Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection. At the command of Christ and through the power of the cross and the empty tomb, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace!
- C** **Alleluia! Amen.**

## Introit

*Psalm 100; antiphon: Psalm 101:1*

- P** I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to You, O LORD, I will make music.
- C** **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!**
- P** Know that the LORD, He is God!
- C** **It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**
- P** Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
- C** **For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P** I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to You, O LORD, I will make music.

## Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
O King of glory, Lord of Your Church, You suffered on the cross and defeated death and the devil for us.
- C** **Make us one as You and the Father are one. Unite us with You and as Your Body, the Church, in suffering and celebration, that the world may be drawn to You and the power of the resurrection;**
- P** for You are risen and reign eternally with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## First Reading

*Acts 1:12–26*

<sup>12</sup>Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, <sup>16</sup>"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup>For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." <sup>18</sup>(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

<sup>19</sup>And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup>“For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’;

and

“‘Let another take his office.’

<sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup>And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 68:1–10; antiphon: v. 32*

**L** O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God;

**C** **sing praises to the Lord,**

**L** God shall arise, His enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate Him shall flee before Him!

**C** **As smoke is driven away, so You shall drive them away;**

**L** as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God!

**C** **But the righteous shall be glad;**

**L** they shall exult before God;

**C** **they shall be jubilant with joy!**

**L** Sing to God, sing praises to His name;

**C** **lift up a song to Him who rides through the deserts;**

**L** His name is the LORD; exult before Him!

**C** **Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in His holy habitation.**

**L** God settles the solitary in a home;

**C** **He leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.**

**L** O God, when You went out before Your people,

**C** **when You marched through the wilderness, the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain,**

**L** before God, the One of Sinai,

**C** **before God, the God of Israel.**

- ℣ Rain in abundance, O God, You shed abroad; You restored Your inheritance as it languished;
- ☩ **Your flock found a dwelling in it; in Your goodness, O God, You provided for the needy.**
  
- ℣ O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God;
- ☩ **sing praises to the Lord,**

## Epistle

*1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11*

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup>But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup>Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. <sup>17</sup>For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup>And

"If the righteous is scarcely saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

<sup>19</sup>Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. . . .

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup>casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- ℣ This is the Word of the Lord.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

## Apostles' Creed

- ℙ God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- ☩ **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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.**

**Offering – ONLINE GIVING** available at [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info) – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

**“His Strength is Perfect”** *sung by Esther Kaufmann*

1. I can do all things through Christ  
Who gives me strength  
But sometimes I wonder  
What He can do through me  
No great success to show  
No glory on my own  
Yet in my weakness  
He is there to let me know

2. We can only know  
The power that He holds  
When we truly see  
How deep our weakness goes  
His strength in us begins  
When ours comes to an end  
He hears our humble cry  
And proves again

***His strength is perfect  
When our strength is gone  
He'll carry us  
When we can't carry on  
Raised in His power  
The weak become strong  
His strength is perfect  
His strength is perfect***

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**Verse**

*Romans 6:9; John 14:18*

**P** Alleluia.

**C** **We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**

**P** Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

John 17:1–11

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. <sup>8</sup>For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Sermon – “We are People of Promise! We’re Promised Struggles, Hope, and Blessings!”**

1. Christian Persecutions (“Fiery trial”) have happened throughout world history by non-Christians AND Christians.
2. “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you!”
3. Trials, sufferings, persecutions that are allowed in this temporary world all have a purpose. God works through them all. They have a purifying effect on Believers.
4. Going through trials while living for Christ is a constant act of worship.
5. Satan hates believers, and he is prowling “around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” He does this 24/7! Satan wants to drag you to hell. And if he can’t drag you to hell, he does everything in his power to bench you... to get you out of his way... to make you fearful... The devil uses our trials to deceive us... to depress us... to bring us despair... to rob us of joy, hope... our self-worth, meaning and purpose... The devil does this all so we can deny that Jesus is our Lord.
6. God uses all these “fiery trials”, whatever they are, for His purposes! Being worthy to suffer for Christ’s sake and name is a promised blessing! (No... doesn’t mean for us to go search for suffering. When you stand firm, suffering will find you!)



7. Christ preserves us in the midst of our trials from the ultimate harm of denying Him and staying in that state of denial. He offers forgiveness to those who repent, for we are lost without His forgiveness.
8. "Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed... Therefore, let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good."
9. Illnesses and other sufferings are not our cross to bear. **How we face our battles and suffering is our cross to bear!**
10. Promises:
  - 1 Peter 5:10 - And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.
  - Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
  - 2 Corinthians 4:17 - For it is light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,
  - Hebrews 12:11 - For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
11. We belong to Jesus, and Jesus declares that "all mine are yours and yours are mine and I have been glorified in them."
12. We have the call to proclaim the love of Christ over the forces of hatred and evil.

## Blessings

1. We pray for blessings  
 We pray for peace comfort for family  
 Protection while we sleep  
 We pray for healing for prosperity  
 We pray for Your mighty hand  
 To ease our suffering  
 And all the while You hear each spoken need  
 Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

2. We pray for wisdom  
 Your voice to hear  
 We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near  
 We doubt Your goodness  
 We doubt Your love  
 As if ev'ry promise from Your Word is not enough  
 And all the while You hear each desp'rate plea  
 And long that we'd have faith to believe

**CHORUS:** *'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops  
What if Your healing comes through tears  
And what if a thousand sleepless nights  
Are what it takes to know You're near  
And what if trials of this life  
Are Your mercies in disguise*

**BRIDGE:** When friends betray us  
When darkness seems to win  
We know that pain reminds this heart  
That this is not this is not our home  
It's not our home

***'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops  
What if Your healing comes through tears  
And what if a thousand sleepless nights  
Are what it takes to know You're near  
What if my greatest disappointments  
Or the aching of this life  
Is a revealing of a greater thirst  
This world can't satisfy  
And what if trials of this life  
The rain the storms the hardest nights  
Are Your mercies in disguise***

CCLI Song # 5897818

Laura Story

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## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.  
We pray with boldness and confidence because we know He hears our prayers because Christ is risen!

**C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**P** Lord Jesus, You are the Lord of the Church. Watch over all who lead Your people. Shape them to be men and women after God's own heart, fuel them with Your Word and Sacraments, and guide them to walk in Your ways. We pray for our Synod president, Matthew; for our district president, Jamison; our regional vice president, Jeffrey; our circuit visitor, Brad; and the servants of our congregation. Lead them as they lead us, because Christ is risen!

**C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**WOMEN** – O Jesus, we pray for all who are suffering trials because of their Christian faith. Comfort them and lead them to rejoice as they share in Your sufferings, that Your glory is revealed, because Christ is risen!

**C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**MEN** – Holy Father, we grieve the divisions in our families, communities, world, and especially in Your Church. Keep all Your people in Your name, which You have given in the waters of Baptism, and lead us to the unity we will experience fully with You in Your kingdom, because Christ is risen!

**C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**P** O Great Physician, bind up the broken hearted and heal those who are suffering in heart, soul, strength, and mind. We pray this day for those who are grieving, and ask You to give them comfort as they mourn. We pray this day for those who are suffering from illnesses, and ask that You heal them according to Your good and gracious will, because Christ is risen!

**C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**P** We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**C Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Living Hope**

1. How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished the end is written  
Jesus Christ my living hope

2. Who could imagine so great a mercy  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken I am forgiven  
The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever  
Jesus Christ my living hope **CHORUS**

**CHORUS: Hallelujah**  
***praise the One who set me free***  
***Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me***  
***You have broken every chain***  
***There's salvation in Your name***  
***Jesus Christ my living hope***

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me  
(REPEAT)  
Jesus Yours is the victory whoa **CHORUS**

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## Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A Quarter 2.  
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