



**Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Martinez, Georgia**



April 19, 2020



Pastor Steven Olson
706-860-1600
Email: pastorstevenolson@gmail.com

Preschool Director: Jeanne Thomas
706-860-1655
Email: princeofpeacepreschoolga@gmail.com

Website: www.princeofpeacemartinez.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/princeofpeacemartinez

THE INVOCATION

[M]: We worship in the name of the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

[M]: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Hymn # 149: (please click on the link and sing along)

[Christ the Lord is Risen Today](#)

EASTER

149

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" Saints on
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Fought the
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King! Where, O
5 Soar we now where Christ has led, Foll'w - ing



earth and an - gels say; Raise your joys and
fight, the bat - tle won; Lo, our sun's e -
burst the gates of hell. Death in vain for -
death, is now your sting? Once he died our
our ex - alt - ed head. Made like him, like



tri - umphs high; Sing, O heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.
clipse is o'er; Lo, he sets in blood no more.
bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
souls to save; Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
him we rise; Ours the cross, the grave, the skies!

6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to you by both be giv'n!
God has now fulfilled his Word;
Praise the resurrected Lord!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, abr., alt.
Tune: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS (77 77) Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221, adapt.

CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

[M]: Dear children of God: We have a risen Savior, a living Lord! Yet we continue to sin before God in spite of the sacrifice he made to set us free from sin. Yet he has not forsaken us, but has promised to intercede on our behalf to our heavenly Father seeking forgiveness for us for his own name's sake. Therefore, I invite you to examine your own heart and to confess to God all the sins that plague your conscience and all those of which you are unaware. In your private confession ask our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, to intercede for us to our Father in heaven so that we might have forgiveness for our sins.

Private time for personal confession of sins ...

[M]: I assure you that your heavenly Father has accepted Jesus' payment for your sins. Easter proves it! He has heard your confession to your Savior. On Easter Sunday Jesus gave the keys to his church and said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Therefore, because of Christ's resurrection, it is my privilege to say to you: "I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." You are at peace with God!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M]: O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON:

1 Peter 1:3-9

Easter gives us new birth into a living hope. By faith God leads us safely through life to our heavenly goal.

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-31

Peace was one thing the disciples did not have. They had questions, concerns, and doubts. But they had no peace that Easter evening as they huddled behind locked doors. Jesus was dead and now fear held them in its icy grip. They lacked more than peace of mind; the disciples also lacked any peace of spirit. Shame hung heavy on their shoulders. Grief and guilt weighed down their hearts. They had great doubts about their Lord, their lives, their salvation. But then Jesus came! In the face of all their doubts he offered proof that he was alive and sin was dead. Jesus showed them his nail-marked hands and riven side. These holy wounds are the proof positive that God is at peace with us. Thomas could be the poster child for our existential culture. No matter how many times the others told him about the resurrection, he set himself against them all. Thomas required more evidence. He must see him with his own eyes; he must touch the wounds – more than that, he must thrust his hand into Jesus' side. Unless he got the evidence that he demanded, he would in no way ever believe it. What grace we see in Jesus! He comes again and repeats Thomas' objections nearly word for word. Again, he gives the ultimate proof that he is alive, and sin is dead. Jesus gave the proof that led to peace for Thomas, peace that could only be found in his Lord and his God.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Hymn of the Day: # 165 – please click on the link below to sing along:

[Oh, Sons and Daughters of the King](#)

EASTER

165 O Sons and Daughters of the King



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,
2 On that first morn - ing of the week,
3 An an - gel bade their sor - row flee,
4 That night th' a - pos - tles met in fear;
5 When Thom - as af - ter - wards had heard

Whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing,
Be - fore the day be - gan to break,
For thus he spoke un - to the three,
A - mong them came their Lord most dear,
That Je - sus had ful - filled his word,

To - day the grave has lost its sting!
The Mar - ys went their Lord to seek.
"Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
And said, "Peace be un - to you here."
He doubt - ed that is was the Lord.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6 "Thomas, behold my side," said he,
"My hands, my feet, my body see;
And doubt not, but believe in me."
Alleluia! | 8 Blessèd are they that have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been;
In life eternal they shall reign.
Alleluia! |
| 7 No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God," he cried.
Alleluia! | 9 On this most holy day of days
To God your hearts and voices raise
In laud and jubilee and praise.
Alleluia! |

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: GELOBT SEI GOTT (888 with Alleluias) Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615, alt.

CONFESSION OF FAITH – The Apostle’s Creed

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.

The Children’s Message – “We Are Witnesses of Everything He Did!”

THE SERMON:

Acts 10:36,39-43

We have Proof of Peace

- 1. Jesus died and rose again**
- 2. The apostles and prophets have testified to it**

³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁹ “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

THE OFFERING

This is a good time to pause your recording and prepare an online gift on our website under the tab “support” www.princeofpeacemartinez.com – you may also mail your offerings into the church. Remember that offerings are NOT mandatory but a joyful expression of our gratitude for the Word of God and the Sacraments God has given to his church for our salvation.

THE PRAYERS

O precious Savior Jesus Christ, there is no work or sacrifice we can do to turn away God's wrath from us. But eternal thanks be to you, because through your suffering and death on the cross you have won complete forgiveness for our sins and established peace with God in our behalf. This peace God announced unmistakably to the whole world when he raised you from the dead. Now peace and forgiveness will always be ours, for you ever live to make intercession for us in heaven. Our ever-living Lord, this peace which you brought to us sinners, fills our souls with a holy joy. We know that whenever we meet God, we shall stand before him unaccused, uncondemned, and unpunished; and that at the last you will receive us into the everlasting joys of heaven.

O Father, the reminders of your curse upon sin are still evident; in the toil, pain, suffering and death that are so much a part of this life. Fill our hearts with peace so that these things hold no terror for us. Hear our prayers and remove those things that distress us. Keep our Easter joy alive in our hearts and give us the peace that surpasses all understanding for the sake of Jesus our Savior.

O Holy Spirit, we thank you for giving us faith to accept God's offer of peace through Christ. Enable us to remain steadfast in our faith, so that we may never lose our redemption purchased with the Savior's blood. Cause the joy which God has placed in our hearts through Christ to spill over richly in our lives so that we spread the good news of salvation to everyone we meet. Inspire us to serve God in all that we do, and to live in peace and love with our fellow man. Use these days of isolation to reach more and more people with the good news of peace to all through your victory on Easter morning. We have opportunities to broadcast throughout the world that blessed message. Cause the hearts of sinners to rejoice at the good news of Christ's resurrection available to so many people these days through online worship services.

(special prayers and intercessions)

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

[M]: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (✠) give you peace.

[C]: Amen.

Closing Hymn # 142 – please click on the link and join to sing the following hymn, notice that the lyrics are rearranged some from the version in our hymnal.

[Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain](#)

EASTER

142 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant
2 All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is
3 But to - day a - mong his own Christ ap - peared, be -

glad - ness! God has brought his Is - ra - el
fly - ing From his light, to whom we give
stow - ing Bless - ed peace, which ev - er - more

In - to joy from sad - ness. See the spring of
Laud and praise un - dy - ing. Nei - ther could the
Pass - es hu - man know - ing. Come, you faith - ful,

souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on And from
gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal Nor the
raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness! God has

three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en.
watch - ers nor the seal Hold him as a mor - tal.
brought his Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, adapt.
Tune: GAUDEAMUS PARITER (76 76 D Trochaic) Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547.