

ANNOUNCEMENTS
WEEK OF APRIL 30, 2023

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jack & Lureen Vaught; Darlene Welsh; Walt & Carolyn Trier; Ralph Hammel; Roy Kincaid; Connie Eipperle; Ken Myers; June Schroeder

LIFE TEAM TRAINING: final session TODAY at 11:30am.

ELDERS & COUNCIL meet **this Tuesday, May 2,** at 6:00 & 7:00pm.

VICARAGE PLACEMENT: we rejoice in the placement of Sem. Nathan Raugutt to serve us as vicar for the 2023-24 academic year! Nathan and his family will join us at the end of July.

CALL ANNOUNCEMENT: our “vicar emeritus,” Sem. David Woelmer, has received a divine call to serve Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX, as pastor. We rejoice with the Woelmer family and pray God’s richest blessings upon his ministry!

THANK YOU to the Sembach family for coordinating our Life Team’s first respite night last Friday! Watch for updates about the next one!

SEEKING DONATIONS OF YARN & COTTON MATERIAL: a member of our Life Team is sewing and crocheting blankets for Project Linus. If you have any unused or unwanted yarn or cotton material it will be greatly appreciated and put to good use! (See www.projectlinus.org for more info on this project).

CALENDAR

Sun. Apr. 30
(Easter 4 – Jubilate)

8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service
9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study
11:30am Life Team Training

Mon. May 1

8:30am Discussion of next Sunday’s readings

Tue. May 2

6:00 / 7:00pm Elders / Church Council

Wed. May 3

7:00pm Divine Service

Thu. May 4

6:30pm Vespers
7:00pm Bible Study (James)

Sun. May 7
(Easter 5 – Cantate)

8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service
9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study

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The Fourth Sunday of Easter is called in Latin *Jubilate*, which means “rejoice” or “shout for joy,” as we see in the first line of our Introit from Psalm 66. This theme of rejoicing is also taken up very directly in the Gospel reading for this week: Jesus says “you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

This theme of rejoicing in the Lord is found throughout the Scriptures in various places, and in a good many of our Easter hymns, too. The Hymn of the Day, “With High Delight” (LSB 483), might not seem like one of them at first! But although the word “rejoice” is not a prominent feature of this hymn, nevertheless our Easter joy is clearly proclaimed and celebrated. More than many other hymns, this one gets to the *source* of our Easter joy, the *reason* for our rejoicing:

The exuberant joy of the resurrection is expressed with dignity and elegance in this great Easter hymn. With the Jerusalem of Isaiah 52, Christians are invited to break forth into singing because Jesus Christ is our salvation. Who are the “pure in heart” invited to take their part? They are those set free from sin and death through faith in the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ meant for every nation and people on earth.

As true God, Christ is the firstborn of the dead, who “by His death has destroyed death, and by His rising to life again has restored to us everlasting life,” as the Preface for Easter proclaims. The second stanza reflects the description of the resurrection of the dead in 1 Corinthians 15. God’s Word gives the promise of victory over death and grave that belongs to us by His grace through faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ. As His death was “death’s undoing,” His life is “life renewing” for those who believe (Romans 6:5).

Christ’s death and resurrection are ample reason to give Him thanks, praise, and adoration. They motivate the mission of the Church to spread His “honor” in word and deed to every nation. In so doing, we claim the full joy and consolation of freedom from misery and death that belong to God’s people in Christ.

LSB: Companion to the Hymns, Volume 1 (CPH, 2019), pp. 391-392.