



## MORRISON ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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April 27, 2014  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Mr. Rick Muchka

### **"I will extol the LORD with all my heart"** (A Song Service of Praise)

Today's worship uses Psalm 111:1 as its theme. "Extol" means to "praise someone or something with great enthusiasm and admiration." The resurrection of Jesus from the dead gives us many reasons to praise God with great enthusiasm and admiration. Today we will use some of the phrases from Psalm 111 and see how the truth of Easter gives each of us peace and reasons to "Extol the LORD with all my heart!"

#### **PART ONE**

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In the first part of our service today, we focus our attention on the Words of Psalm 111:1. ***"I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly."***

Earlier we talked about the word "extol," which means to praise someone or something with great enthusiasm and admiration. Today we take the time to praise our Lord with admiration and enthusiasm through song. We begin with our first song, Hymn 153, ***Alleluia! Jesus Lives.***

#### **PART TWO**

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The second part of our worship today focuses on Psalm 111:2. ***"Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them."***

The Great Work of Baptism is ours because our baptism connects us to Christ's death and resurrection. The Paschal candle that is behind me is lit during the season of Easter and placed near the altar reminding us of Christ's resurrection. This candle is also lit at each baptism to remind us that we are baptized into Christ's resurrection.

#### **Romans 6:1-10**

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. (New International Version)

We continue by praising our heavenly Father using the words of Hymn 737, ***God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It.***

Sometimes we fail to ponder the Great Works of the Lord and lose sight of the peace his resurrection won for us. This was a lesson that Thomas had to learn the hard way. He doubted. He despaired. Learn from Thomas. Be blessed by believing what you have only seen through the eyes of faith. Then you will praise God with great enthusiasm for the peace he won for you.

### **John 20:19-31**

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

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 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."

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!" 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."

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

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

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (NIV)

We continue with the singing of Hymn 165, ***O Sons and Daughters of the King.***

Having the opportunity to hear God's Word and to ponder it should make us excited about the message that it has. With that excitement, we will want to tell other people about that saving message that we have.

### **Acts 10:34a, 36, 39-43**

Then Peter began to speak: You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. 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. 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” (NIV)

We continue our song service by singing Hymn 719, ***Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia***. As we sing, pay attention closely to verse 4 and the encouragement to imitate Peter and proclaim the great works of the Lord so that more and more people may ponder them.

What brings more doubt into our lives than grief or sorrow? “Why did this happen to me?” “How could God let my loved one die?” “When will this sickness stop?” Grief and sorrow raise doubts about God's love and God's plan for our lives. Peter points us to the resurrection as proof of the living hope we have regardless of our outward circumstances. We may doubt when we face trials, but the trials themselves prove the genuineness of our faith. Faith clings to a Savior we have not seen, but love. And this unseen Savior gives us the inexpressible joy of proof and peace even in the face of doubt.

### **1 Peter 1:3-9**

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, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 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. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 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, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (NIV)

We continue with the singing of the first six verses of Hymn 720, ***Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands***.

## PART THREE

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As we enter into the third part of our service today, we focus our attention on the words of Psalm 111:9, 10. ***“He provided redemption for his people; To him belongs eternal praise.”***

To redeem means to buy back. We have been bought back from the guilt of our sins. Through faith in Jesus' life and death in our place, we are declared not guilty of sin. A good, fancy church word that means to declare not guilty is “justify.” We have been justified through faith in Christ. The empty tomb of Jesus assures us that our “justification” is complete. It has been credited to our account through faith. Just as it happened in the case of Abraham.

### **Romans 4:18-25**

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (NIV)

We continue by praising our Lord using the words of Hymn 143, ***He's Risen, He's Risen.***

The resurrection not only assures us that we have been fully redeemed, it also assures us we will live with God forever in heaven. To him belongs eternal praise because he has freely given believers the gift of eternal life!

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. (NIV)

Our worship continues with the singing of Hymn 168, ***With High Delight Let Us Unite.***