



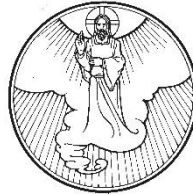
ABOUT THE PROPERs

An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2025



“Because He Lives”

We Have Deep and Lasting Joy

Conventional wisdom says that joy is a direct result of circumstance. Our disposition is nothing more than the product of the events, conditions, and relationships of which our life consists. Therefore, it would seem that for our disposition to change, our circumstances need to change. But Jesus offers a joy that is superior. It is not a product of circumstance. It's the result of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Easter proves that God can take what normally causes people to weep and turn it into what causes people to rejoice. Sin, death, and shame went into Jesus' tomb. Forgiveness, life, and glory came out. Our risen Savior gives us a joy that remains constant in the highest of life's highs and the lowest of life's lows. Because he lives, we have deep and lasting joy.

First Reading Acts 14:8-22

As a witness of Christ's resurrection, Paul's joy and his ministry were unaffected by circumstance.

Second Reading Revelation 21:21-27

The great joy we have now will soon be made perfect and complete.

Gospel John 16:16-24

Jesus promises that our grief will be turned to perfect joy.

Psalm of the Day⁴ Psalm 65 A “The Seed That Falls”

The Church sings Psalm 65 in services that emphasize the fruits that come from preaching and teaching the gospel. With the next three psalms, it celebrates both physical and spiritual blessings, both locally and across the world. Martin Luther said, “Psalm 65 is a psalm of thanksgiving. The psalmist praises God for giving us his Word and worship along with temporal peace. He treats the growth and spread of the Church through the preaching and miracles of the apostles with the picture of fields producing a bountiful harvest.”

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 30:5

“Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.”

Prayer of the Day

O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

557 “Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice” (Martin Luther, 1483-1546)

“Because of its clear doctrinal statements, this hymn became popular with the German people and was apparently an effective evangelism tool. In his preface to Johannes Magdeburg’s *Psalter* of 1565, Tileman Hesshusius wrote: ‘I do not doubt that through this one hymn of Luther many hundreds of Christians have been brought to the true faith, who before could not endure the name of Luther; but the noble, precious words of the hymn have won their hearts, so that they are constrained to embrace the truth: so that in my opinion the hymns have helped the spread of the Gospel not a little.’”

Church Year Season ¹

Easter

After forty days of repentance and prayer, the Church bursts forth in jubilant praise at the Resurrection of our Lord. The alleluias and glorias which were muted for Lent ring out again as the Bride of Christ welcomes her Bridegroom back from the dead. Easter is as the pinnacle of the Church Year, the oldest festival and season celebrated by the worshipping Church. For a full week-of-weeks (49 days) the Church celebrates the resurrection of Christ on the Sundays of Easter which culminate on the 50th day, Pentecost.

Colors & Symbolism

White

White is the color of our Triune God and heaven. It also symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity and innocence. We receive these blessings through faith because Christ, our righteousness Savior, has forgiven all our sins.

Traditions & Customs

The Paschal Candle

Paschal, meaning "having to do with the Passover," is a word associated with Easter. It was at the conclusion of the Jewish Passover Festival (the "Pasch") that Jesus rose from the dead and proved himself to be the true Passover Lamb whose blood removes sin and death (Ex 12; 1 Cor 6:6-8). The candle is lit for services during Easter to symbolize that Christ is alive and lives among us. The candle is also lit for Baptisms and funerals, reminding us of our resurrection to eternal life.

Minor Festivals

Visitation (May 31)

After the Angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God, Mary traveled to the hill country of Judea to visit her relative Elizabeth, the wife of the priest Zechariah. When Mary greeted Elizabeth, the baby in Elizabeth’s womb – John the Baptist – leaped for joy. In her own joy, Elizabeth blessed Mary and Jesus, the child in her womb (Luke 1:39-45). In her joy, Mary burst forth in the song we know as, “The Magnificat,” or “Song of Mary” (Luke 1:46-56).

Nain Paraments

Easter

Superfrontal: *Alleluia* is taken from a Hebrew word which means, “Praise the LORD.” It is a word of joy and gladness and most commonly used in the Psalms (e.g. 103). An ancient custom is to refrain from using the term during Lent in order to distinguish the penitential nature of that season from the joy and hope filled nature of the Easter season that follows. The vines and vegetation branching out from the *Alleluia* represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

Lectern antependium: The doves flying in front of the cross represent purity, innocence (Matthew 10:16), as well as spiritual and eternal rest (Psalm 55:6). When the dove has an olive branch or leaf in its beak, it is a symbol of hope and peace (Genesis 8:11). Each of these blessings and more come by Jesus’ death on the cross and through the gift of faith (Galatians 1:3,4).

Pulpit antependium: The cross is formed by the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P). Chi and Rho are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός). This ancient symbol represents Jesus and his office as the Messiah, the anointed King of kings and Savior of the world (Matthew 16:16). The vines and vegetation branching out from the cross represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

¹ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year A”. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

² Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

³ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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