



ABOUT THE PROPERS

An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service



Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024



Resurrection Reality

We Have a Meaningful Message to Share

Jesus desires that all people know that he has died to pay the price for their sins and risen from the dead to give them life eternal in heaven. He entrusts his Church with a meaningful message to share – of repentance, of forgiveness, of peace, of power. The reality is we have something important to say to every single person that God brings into our sphere of influence. And our risen Savior gives us the courage and power to share that meaningful message.

The Propers

The Propers are those portions of the service that change (i.e. are “proper” to) each Sunday or season of the church year. The Propers differ from the Ordinary (from the Latin ordo, which means “regular order”) portions of the liturgy, which do not change (e.g. the Lord’s Prayer). The Propers offer the variety to the worship service and emphasize particular worship themes throughout the liturgical calendar.

First Reading Acts 3:11-20

Peter healed a crippled beggar, drawing a large crowd. Peter used that opportunity to share a meaningful message about the one the people of Jerusalem asked Pilate to crucify.

Second Reading² 1 John 1:5 – 2:22

Everything which the apostles had seen and heard is there to be received, shared, enjoyed in the Word. The Word brings the light. In darkness there can be no fellowship. You can’t walk hand in hand, work with or support, lovingly serve what is lost in the dark. But the Word brings God to light. It shows and brings the Advocate who pleads our case so effectively to light. It brings the truth to light that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. Sin removed is darkness removed. The light of the Word removes the sin by revealing the Advocate which brings forth trust in him and in his merit.

Gospel² Luke 24:36-49

From Easter Sunday until the Ascension Jesus emphasized in his discourses with the disciples the absolute necessity of the Word. Soon he would remove his visible presence. In this appearance he moves from the visible to the Word. He uses what they can see and touch as the bridge to the Word. The closer they are to his Word, the closer they will be to him. For everything that he is and did is enclosed in the Word. In revealing himself in the Word, he gives himself and all that he has to them. So that he may be with them and they with him, he performs the miracle, a miracle which the Holy Spirit will soon perform regularly. He opens the Scriptures so that they finally understand; without that miracle of the effective Word all remains darkness and foolishness. For how impossible everything he promised appears to reason! But with the effective Word, it all becomes both clear and powerful even beyond the creation of faith. Look at what Jesus sends them to do!

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 150 B

“Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!” Joyful songs and hymns of praise are the fitting spontaneous response of the Christian heart to God's gift of himself to us in his Word and sacraments.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 24:46,47

“The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations.” Jesus explained to his disciples that what he did to save them – including his rising from the dead – was prophesied in God's Word and accomplished so that those who believe in his name will have the forgiveness of sins.

Prayer of the Day

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; 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

459 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Again” (Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534, abr.)

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.

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

Easter: 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.

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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