

The Resurrection of Our Lord 2020
Matthew 28

Holy Spirit, Light Divine/Shine upon this heart of mine
Chase the shades of night away/Turn the darkness into day.
Let me see my Savior's face/Let me all His beauties trace.
Show those glorious truths to me/Which are only known to Thee

Matthew 28:1–10 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. **5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”** 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

“See, I have told you.”

That angel did a GOOD JOB, didn't he?! He TOLD the women what happened, and what he was sent to tell them. And, with childlike

simplicity—YOU do NOT turn into an angel in heaven! If ANYTHING, the angels practice day and night to be YOU!—

With the CERTAINTY that HIS...PERFORMANCE is not to be judged, the angel concludes with, ‘See, I have told you!’

He is risen INDEED!

He PROVES it!

Because...because...the women ha’n’t but turned their tails and the Risen One jumped in their path! ‘Greetings! Now, make SURE you send my brothers to Galilee! THERE they will see me. I know my angel told y’all the same thing just a second ago. And HE did a GOOD JOB! But, I just wanna make sure. Galilee! Got it?! Galilee! OK. That’s where I’ll be! (Galilee.) Until then!’

Poor little abused Christians have probably asked you in your days—you can TELL they are frightened, tortured, misused: their faces scrunch up when they ask you about the faith of your Holy Baptism; and there’s an EDGE to their interrogation, that opens wide for you a clear sight of a terrified heart!—

When such orphan Christians demand from you: ‘Do you ALSO baptize infants, BABIES, at your church?!’

I know y'all already know this. And y'all are doing a GREAT JOB at witnessing your Lutheran faith! But Risen Jesus shows us that we CANNOT hear the GOOD NEWS too often!

'NOOooooo! We do NOT.....A...L...S...O baptize little ones, newborns.

We O...N...L...Y..... baptize babies. Only little ones. Only newborns.'

See, I have told y'all!

My dear ones, I am going to confess and ask for absolution on behalf of my wife and myself. After service today, I ask that you pardon us in Christ's place—HE loves to have us play-act HIM!—and assure us that we can still be saved; our baptism is still Holy!

A couple days ago, our firstborn got on the gizmo where you can see each other; and she let us know that she—she's my grandson, Samuel Paul's mother, by the way—she dared to say to my grandson, Samuel Paul, 'Samuel, LISTEN!' And Samuel scrunched up his face and said back to her—I think he POINTED too!—'Yissen!' And then he turned his back and was off!

My poor daughter! What could HER parents say to her?!

‘Oh. We-are-so-sorry-dear. That-must-be-very-hard-on-you. We-can’t-imagine-having-such-a-child. Well-that’s-children. Keep-at-it. We’re-sure-it-will-get-better.’

My grandson, Samuel Paul’s father heard then, ‘They were NOT very sympathetic to me!’

Beloved, y’all have children for the same reason our Father in heaven has them: to produce children; then to teach them today not to throw donuts on the floor; and then tell them again, tomorrow, not to throw donuts on the floor; and then next months, ‘Listen! Do NOT thrown donuts on the floor!’

That’s what having kids is all about, Charlie Brown!

He is risen!

Heaven and earth WILL pass away before the demands and curses of Moses will pass away. God ain’t joking about the ORIENTATION expected FROM...US:

To Him—never idolize a thing!

To each other: these are your brothers; more important, your WOMEN! They are what LOVE is FOR! NOT....whatever it is that y’all are doing!

In the Old Covenant, the kings of Israel were tasked with leading the nation into such a life. The best of them despised the whole arrangement; David. Yet the Lord called David ‘a man after my own heart!’

Of course, the Lord was pledging the arrival of His Son in OUR flesh; and a New Kingdom.

When he went about building His Kingdom, what did He do?

¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”^[1]

Good job, Jesus! Matthew’s is a long Gospel!

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ^[2]

Good job! But Saint Matthew kept writing:

^[1] [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mt 4:18–19). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

^[2] [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mt 16:13–16). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” ^[3]

Is disciple number one named Peter ROCKstar? Or is he Peter Satan?

What Peter is, is a child; baptized by Jesus. And what a Baptism!

³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ ³² But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ³³ Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”^[4]

The bigger they are, the harder they fall.

What gave it away, that Peter and Jesus were intimate? ‘Your ACCENT,’ the maid said! ‘YOU are a Galilean!’ Amen!

^[3] [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mt 16:21–23). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

^[4] [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mt 26:30–33). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

As with many child events, it all ended in tears. But then, Peter's hero rose; and He called Peter 'brother.' And He tried again, that day.

I have clever brothers who can build things that look like they grew out of the ground: seamless!

When I would lift my head from a book on a building day, I would ask to be part of it. My brothers were GLAD to have me there! Here's the type of tool belt they got for me to use! Even got me this nice work station! 'Now, here's where YOU need to work! We CAN'T do this job WITHOUT YOU! Just stay away from the big-boy tools, and tap away on this. There are some piles to move around. And garbage to scoop up. And, could you keep the cold drinks coming? You are doing a great job!'

Nothing easier! Same way I live my life in the Kingdom of Christ my Savior!

HE does the job; and I tap away with my little plastic tools. Now and then, he lets me cut with a real saw, pound with a real hammer. And it all still seems to come out ok.

Holy Baptism is a Resurrection Gift! The apostles go on and on about it, in every one of their letters in the New Testament! And the Gospel are just awash in Holy Baptism certainties.

And there is really only one deadly temptation left, that has any hope of losing hope in your King. It's the temptation that insists that YOU are in charge of YOU; that YOUR deeds are only good when YOU make them good; that YOU will have to answer for every false step: the LAW will measure and see what YOU have ended up BUILDING in this life.

The answer to all that? Live in Galilee! That place where were some good practicing Jews, and some who were quite rough: Peter comes to mind.

When they saw Him in Galilee:

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." ^[5]

GO...to the nations?! They were already THERE! Galilee of the nations! Galilee of the Gentiles!

^[5] [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mt 28:16–20). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

My dear ones: in light of Christ's suffering, and in the shadow of the Law, y'all really should throw yourself into proper orientations toward God and your fellow man, Love.

But to keep you from despairing—because THINGS NEVER GET BETTER....

To keep you from being INSUFFERABLE—‘Well, my BIGOTRY says that I am not PERFECT! But AT LEAST I AM NOTT.....’

Your Heavenly Father is Perfect; so, so must you be. After all, you have been baptized at the authority of one who even props up the work of angels.

How much more you?!

I am going to give you one last warning: I've heard this so often, too often. Often, I am at a loss what to say. Today we know.

“YOU live as if somehow Jesus' Holy Spirit has MIRACULOUSLY washed you and graded you whiter than white! But you!—E...V...E...R...Y day, you're like a BABY! It's as if whatever PROGRESS you made yesterday, you need to learn the ABCs of life

ALL OVER AGAIN, every day! WHERE is your
CONSISTENCY?! HOWwww are YOU going to stand out?! Some
days you live, and it's as if
YOU...ARE...NOT...EVEN...TRYING!!!!”

What do we respond to THAT?!

He is risen INDEED!

Look! See?! Now, I HAVE told y'all, in the Name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit! Amen!