



THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE

— 2 CORINTHIANS 3:6 —

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

APRIL 15, 2018

THE GREAT ESCAPE OF FAITH



OPENING HYMN

478 "With The Lord Begin Your Task"



SERVICE OF THE WORD

Found on page 38 in the front of the Red Hymnal.

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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

After the Prayer of the Day we join to sing "Amen."



FIRST LESSON

Acts 12:1-19

In the midst of persecution and death, Peter is saved.

It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ²He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. ³When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. ⁴After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. ⁵So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

⁶The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. ⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

⁸Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. ⁹Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

¹¹Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating."

¹²When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. ¹³Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. ¹⁴When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

¹⁵"You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

¹⁶But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. ¹⁷Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the brothers about this," he said, and then he left for another place. ¹⁸In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. ¹⁹After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.



PSALM HYMN

756 "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"



SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

Christ saved us from death giving us the fragrance of life.

Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, ¹³I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-by to them and went on to Macedonia. ¹⁴But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. ¹⁵For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? ¹⁷Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

¹Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ²You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. ³You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

⁴Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. ⁵Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.



VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 24:32

Jesus showed himself to disciples to Emmaus.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Alleluia. Our hearts were burning within us while he talked
with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us.
Alleluia.

After the Verse of the Day we sing the “Alleluia” on page 40.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.



GOSPEL

Luke 24:36-49

Jesus explains that his resurrection fulfills Scripture.

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”³⁷They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.³⁸He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

⁴⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.⁴¹And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish,⁴³and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

After the Gospel we sing "Praise be to you, O Christ!"

EXAMINATION



HYMN OF THE DAY

538 "The Church's One Foundation"

SERMON

Acts 12:1-19

THE GREAT ESCAPE OF FAITH



APOSTLES CREED

We confess our Christian faith with the words on page 41.



THANK OFFERING

2 Corinthians 9:7

Give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver

After the offering please stand and sing the offering hymn.



OFFERING HYMN

158 stanza 4

**I am content! Lord, set me ever free
And wake me from the dead
That I may rise forevermore to be
With you, my living head.
The chains that hold my body, sever;
Then shall my soul rejoice forever.
I am content! I am content!**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: page 42

RITE OF CONFIRMATION



HYMN

463 "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"

PRAYER AND BLESSING: pages 43-44



CLOSING HYMN

770 "O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our response to the Lord's blessings last weekend...

- Attendance: 54
- General: \$990.00
- Missions: \$110.00
- NELHS: \$165.00
- School: \$255.00
- Tuition: \$70.00

Schedule for this Coming Week

- Monday: 10:00 AM - Bible Class at Fairview Manor
- Wednesday: 7:00 PM - Bible Class at Grace
- Friday: 10:30 AM - Bible Class at Heritage Crossings
- Sunday: 8:30 AM - Worship at Trinity
- Sunday: 9:30 AM - Sunday School
- Sunday: 10:30 AM - Worship at Grace & Voters Meeting

Next Sunday (April 22)

- Ushers: Terry & Tyler Naber
- Greeters: B and G Dohrman
- April Counters: Jefferson & Workentine

Confirmands - We give thanks that Carson Adams and Kaitlynn Pollock were confirmed in their faith this morning.

Call - Last Tuesday, the Lord led our voters to call Pastor Horn to serve Grace and Trinity. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he deliberates.

Spring Voters Meeting - We will have our spring voters meeting after worship next Sunday, April 22.

LWMS Spring Rally in Kearney, NE on Sat., April 28.

Coffee - We will have a coffee after church on April 29th to honor our confirmands and graduates.

LIVE BY THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:16-18,22-25

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

