

St. Paul's Epistle – April 2021

Five Hundred Years Ago on April 18th!



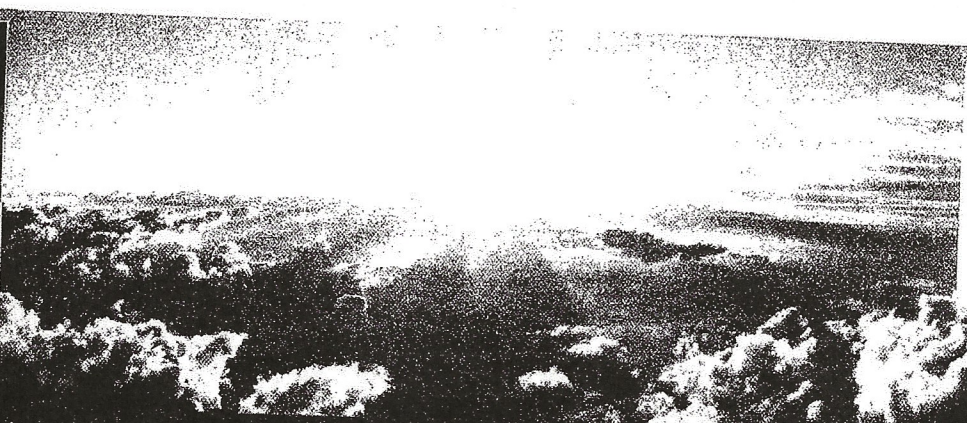
“Luther at the Diet of Worms” by Anton von Werner. © Staatsgalerie Stuttgart. Licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0 and used with permission.

On April 18, 1521, three and a half years after he nailed the 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Martin Luther made his historic stand at the Diet (official meeting) in the German city of Worms (pronounced “Vorms”). Accused of fostering heresy, he was directed by Charles V and other leaders to recant his teaching about the pure Gospel or face death.

As recounted in his collected works, Luther concluded his statement to the Diet with the words: “Since then your serene majesty and your lordships seek a simple answer, I will give it in this manner, neither horned nor toothed: Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.

“I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen” (*Luther's Works* 32:112-13).

Pastor Poganowski



WHAT HOLDS YOUR ATTENTION?

A word of encouragement from Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of The Lutheran Hour®

Whatever holds your attention holds *you*.

As John 20 opens, Jesus has suffered a horrible death on a cross. His handlers have laid Him in a borrowed tomb. Now it is Sunday morning, and Mary Magdalene is distraught. She decides to visit His tomb, and when she arrives, the situation is worse than she expected. The body is gone.

Losing Him was hard enough. Perhaps knowing His physical body remained a few feet away, inside the sealed tomb, would have brought comfort. Yet now, someone has taken *that* from her, too. So Mary stands there and weeps. Helpless. Alone.

The risen Savior approaches her and asks, "*Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?*" But she doesn't recognize Him. She thinks He's the gardener, and you can hear the heartache in her response: "*Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away*" (John 20:15 ESV).

"Mary," He says.

One word.

In the blink of an eye, joy replaces her grief. When He calls Mary by name, it holds her attention. She knows it's Jesus. She recognizes Him now. And once He has her attention, He sends

her to the disciples with a message: He is risen!

Whatever holds your attention holds *you*.

Mary was freaking out. What should she do next? How would her life look after Christ's departure? Death had her attention—to such an extent, she couldn't recognize Jesus, not even when he stood in front of her!

When He spoke her name, He held her attention.

But when He spoke her name, everything shifted. *He* held her attention now. He held her trust. He stabilized her and changed her perspective.

Jesus had risen from the dead, as He had promised! It was a capstone miracle in a life full of them. The Scriptures document many of those miracles for you and me, and the final verse of John's Gospel reveals why: "*These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name*" (John 20:31 ESV).

So that you may believe.

To *believe* encompasses more than acknowledging the fact of Christ's resurrection. Believing influences

where you lay your fears and where you rest your concerns. It shapes how you see the world and how you organize your life. Belief centers around what holds your attention ... and what holds *you*.

Jesus is risen from the dead, and His resurrection ensures *your* resurrection to come. He's here for you, even when you can't see Him. Even when all you can see is this broken world that longs for Him to return and make all things new.

He loves you. He leads you, protects you, forgives you.

And He knows your name.

Let Him hold your attention today.

Thank you for your prayers, your financial support, and your dedication to telling others of the Savior who was crucified—and rose again—for them. ♦

Did you know?

Each week on **The Lutheran Hour**, Rev. Zeigler takes listeners on a journey through the Bible. Tune in this weekend!

Want to catch up? Find past sermons at lhm.org/lutheranhour.

Worship Notes

The month of April offers the following special Worship opportunities:

Thursday, April 1st at 7:00 p.m. we observe Holy Thursday, the first service in the celebration of the holy three days of Christ's Passover (the Triduum). The service focuses on Christ's humble service. We will share "When You Woke That Thursday Morning" (LSB 445) in preparation for the Sermon, titled, "It's the LORD's Supper". The text for the Sermon is 1 Corinthians 11:24-25. Holy Communion is celebrated.

Friday, April 2nd, we gather at 7:00 p.m. to observe Good Friday. We will learn of the seven Ordeals of the Passion in a special format sharing Readings, comments and hymn verses.

Sunday, April 4th is The Resurrection of our Lord--Easter Sunday! We share "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen" (LSB 474) in the Hymn of the day and will hear "Jesus Has Risen" in the Sermon based on the Gospel reading from Mark 16:1-8.

*Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light! Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! Jesus is risen and we shall arise; Give God the glory! Alleluia!
(LSB 474 vs 1)*

Sunday, April 11th is the Second Sunday of Easter. We will address the question, "Who is Being Sent to Do What?" in the Sermon based on the Gospel reading from John 20:19-31. We share "O Sons and Daughters of the King" (LSB 470) as the Hymn of the Day.

*How blest are they who have not seen And yet whose faith has constant been, For they
eternal life shall win. Alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia! (LSB 470 v.8)*

Sunday, April 18th is the Third Sunday of Easter. We Sing "Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Living" (LSB 479) and hear "Proclaim Repentance and Forgiveness" in the Sermon based on the Gospel reading from Luke 24:36-49.

*Christ is risen, Christ is living, Dry your tears, be unafraid! Death and darkness could not hold Him,
Nor the tomb in which He lay. Do not look among the dead for One who lives forevermore; Tell the
world that Christ is risen, make it known He goes before. (LSB 479 v. 1)*

Sunday, April 25th, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we will focus on "The Good Shepherd" in the Sermon with text from John 10:11-18. The Sermon hymn is "The King of Love My Shepherd is" (LSB 709).

*The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am His And He is
mine forever.*

*And So through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy
praise Within Thy house forever! (LSB 709 vs. 1 and 6)*

Praising our risen Lord and Savior,

Karen Broach,

Worship Committee member

April 2021 - St. Paul, Auburn

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Birthdays
 7 - Carol Kletke
 7 - Barb Whiteley
 13 - Shauna Bengston
 18 - Jon Poganski
 18 - Jake Poganski

Baptismal Birthdays
 12 - Robert Potts, Jr.
 16 - Jon Hammon
 21 - Gil McMillan
 22 - Tammie Tavare
 26 - Martha Battermann

27 - Rebecca Potts
 Sometime in April '97 -
 Tommy Dillon
 IS your info. missing?
 Please tell pastor. Thanks

Maundy Thursday 1
 9 a.m. Men's Study at church

Good Friday 2
 7 p.m. In-person Worship

Vigil of Easter 3

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Easter 9 a.m. Divine Service <u>In-person</u> 11 a.m. Adult Bible Class on Zoom			9 a.m. In-person Men's Study at church			

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Easter 1 9 a.m. Divine Service <u>In-person</u> 11 a.m. Adult Bible Class on Zoom		10 a.m. Quilting Group	9 a.m. In-person Men's Study at church	10 a.m. Ladies Study on Zoom		

18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Easter 2 9 a.m. Divine Service <u>In-person</u> 11 a.m. Adult Bible Class on Zoom			9 a.m. In-person Men's Study at church			

25	26	27	28	29	30
Easter 3 9 a.m. Divine Service <u>In-person</u> 11 a.m. Adult Bible Class on Zoom	Note: April 25th is also St. Mark, the Evangelist Day			9 a.m. In-person Men's Study at church	Anniversaries 11 - Carla and Mark Lantz 14 - Jolene and Ray Kirk