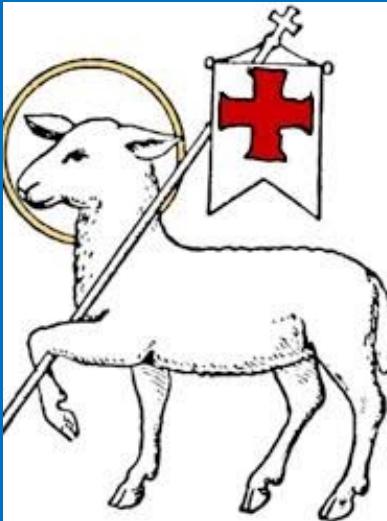




Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



April 2019



Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free

Our Paschal Lamb, that sets us free,
Is sacrificed, O keep
The feast of freedom gallantly;
Let alleluias leap:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again
Sing alleluia, cry aloud:
Alleluia! Amen!

Let all our lives now celebrate
The feast; let malice die.
Let love grow strong anew, and great,
Let truth stamp out the lie.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again
Sing alleluia, cry aloud:
Alleluia! Amen!

Let all our deeds, unanimous,
Confess Him as our Lord
Who by the Spirit lives in us,
The Father's living Word.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again
Sing alleluia, cry aloud:
Alleluia! Amen!

Text: Martin Franzmann
Lutheran Service Book #473



Veselé Velikonoce! Happy Easter!

Okay, let me be honest with you. I have never been a big fan of our word “Easter” being used to denote the festival of our Lord’s resurrection. It is Germanic in origin, and there is not a full agreement on its etymology. Some see it as taken from an older Germanic word for “east” and by transference, “dawn.” Still others see it as a reference to Eostre, a spring goddess. Whatever the case, it falls far short of the romance languages’ word for Easter: in French, “Pâques;” in Spanish, “Pascua.” Both of these words reach back to the Old Testament and the Feast of Passover, for which the Hebrew word is “Pesach.” After all, it was on that night that God freed them from slavery, and it was on that night

The peace that flows from Christ is
proclaimed.

that they were blessed by the Passover lamb whose blood marked their doors and whose flesh they ate. And, after all, it was at the Feast of the Passover that our Lord offered Himself for us (John 19:14). So, how fitting it is that other languages tie the Feast of the Lord’s Resurrection to the Paschal deliverance.

How excited I was this year, during my first Czech Easter, to find out about their word which denotes this feast. It is “Velikonoce,” it means, “the big night.” Yes! It is big, the biggest of nights! It is when God prophetically delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt; and then, as a fulfillment of that, He delivered us all from sin. In the liturgy of the Easter Vigil (held on Saturday night), the pastor offers a prayer that includes these words: *This is the night when You brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead.*

It is sad that the people of this country use such a heavy-with-theology word to signify this Feast of feasts, but do not celebrate it that same way. This blessed season, this Easter that is celebrated for a week of weeks (seven Sundays in Easter!), this big night, has brought us to the dawning of a new day—a day of redemption, a day of resurrection, a day of life everlasting. And that is our mission here, to share this truth with everyone here.

It is our prayer also that this Big-Night might reign in your heart. Death has been made a joke; it can keep us no longer. By this Big-Night, the devil’s reign, by which he held us in bondage to sin, has been broken by Christ Jesus. By this Big-Night, we have been brought into the freedom of the family of God. God is truly “our Father” and we are truly His sons and daughters. Therefore, with the hymn we add our Alleluias that cannot end.

Veselé Velikonoce! A most happy Big-Night to you!



We always thank and praise our Lord for all our supporters, donors, and those who offer prayers for us. This month we lift praise to God for the support given by the following ministries:

St. Peter Lutheran
Cornelius, OR

Zion Lutheran
Dexter, IA

Christ the Redeemer
Tulsa, OK

Watch for your congregation in the coming months!

Our address in Prague:
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Bubenečská 365/41
Praha 6 160 00
Czech Republic

The church address in Prague:
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
V Jirchářích 14/152
Praha 1 110 00
Czech Republic

Please, pray for our travels.

Please, pray that the officials will approve our visa application.

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Our email address is
Dale.Kaster@lcms.org



A New Life Given!

We had the first baptism of our ministry here in the Czech Republic. It came on the Second Sunday of Easter, which is also known as "Quasimodo Geniti," which means, "Like newborn infants." The child, the son of a Czech father and of a Finnish mother, received new birth through the divine washing of Holy Baptism. It was a great way to celebrate this big feast!

Trip to Poděbrady

The Czech and English speaking congregations of St. Michael's recently went on a fellowship outing to the spa city of Poděbrady. It was beautiful just getting there, seeing the flowering countryside. It was even more beautiful on our arrival in this flower-filled town, including various springs whose waters are purported to be healthful.



Marching for Life

Deacon Martin Damašek and one other of our members participated in the Czech March for Life and Family. Unfortunately, there was a scheduling conflict with our trip to Poděbrady. But we were proud of our members who stood for God's gift of life and that we, His creations, should honor and respect it. There was some peaceful, yet determined, opposition to the march. But the police cleared the path, and the march made it all the way from Prague castle to Wenceslas Square.

Trip to Wittenberg, Germany

On May 13-15, confessional Lutherans from all over Europe will be gathering for a conference on the parts of our confessions that condemn false teachings. The presentations will deal with the place of such statements in our world today. Is it enough to say "This is what I believe," without saying "This is what I reject?" Our whole team in the Czech Republic will be there, as well as people from other European Lutheran ministries. Please pray for the travel of the participants and for the success of this conference.

Trip to Frankfurt, Germany

In the USA, pastors are supposed to meet monthly with their colleagues in order to further their understanding of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, to gather for the Sacrament, and to offer casuistry (brotherly support and feedback). As the pastor of St. Michael's in Prague, I need to be receiving such help as well as offering it. So, on May I will begin traveling to participate in those meetings in Frankfurt, Germany. God bless the meetings and the fruit of them!



One Last Thing ...

Among the many Czech traditions that are a part of Velikonoce, Czech Easter eggs were a hit with us, especially Suzanne. Czech artisans painstakingly blow out the eggs of their contents and then either paint the whole egg or carve decorative holes in them before painting them. They bring a brightness to our home!

We commend you to Christ!

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster

Your Missionaries to the Czech Republic

To support the LCMS through the work of the Kasters, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR**
P.O. Box 66861
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