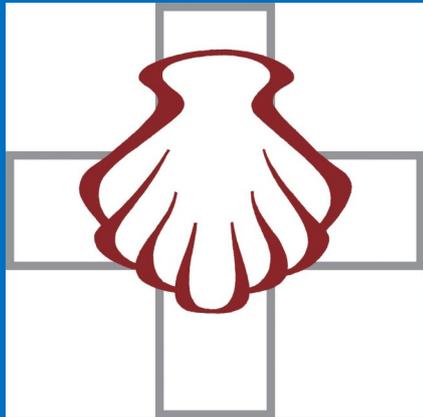




# Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



March  
2020



God's own child, I gladly say it:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it,  
Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth's treasures many?  
I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free  
Lasting to eternity!

Death, you cannot end my gladness;  
I am baptized into Christ!  
When I die, I leave all sadness  
To inherit paradise!  
Though I lie in dust and ashes  
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:  
Baptism has the strength divine  
To make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing  
To this life-long comfort sure.  
Opened-eye my grave is staring:  
Even there I'll sleep secure.  
Though my flesh awaits its raising,  
Still my soul continues praising:  
I am baptized into Christ;  
I'm a child of paradise

"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"  
Lutheran Service Book #594



## Death into Life

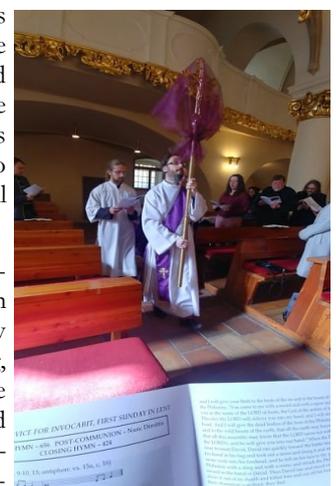
On our way to Czech lessons, we pass by a church that has this beautiful crucifix outside. In the summer time, it is surrounded by the green leaves of the tree, and you cannot see much behind them. As we have passed it lately, we have admired the stark contrast between the golden body of Christ with death all around—the darkness of the cross, the leafless tree, and the gray Prague weather so frequent at this time of year. How many people walk by and do not even acknowledge it? How many see it as a symbol only of a long-dead faith? Or, how many see it only as a sign of a tortured death? But for the Christian, life is seen in this image, because we know that Christ has changed death into life.

St. Paul reminded the Corinthian church of this truth. *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.* (1 Cor. 15:3-5 ESV) Our annual walk through the Lenten season is crucial for us because it puts before us the cross of Jesus as the source of salvation and the means of eternal life. However, this is needed perhaps even more in this year's Lent. All around the globe, the coronavirus is on everyone's mind. People are worried and down-right frightened because death seems to be everywhere. But for the Christian, things are different. While we do not want to be foolhardy, death is nothing to fear. Because even our deaths are not an end, without any more life to come, but rather a momentary rest until the Lord Jesus Christ raises us from death into eternal life. *Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.* (1 Cor. 15:51-52 ESV)

This holy season walks us through the darkness of Christ's crucifixion and through the darkness of the cry of dereliction. But it also leads us to the tomb with its useless seal and guards. The Christ who died is the Christ whom nothing could contain—not a guard, not a seal, not a grave. The Lord assures us that such is the case for our graves as well. When the trumpet's clarion call goes forth into the world, then nothing—not even coronavirus—will keep us in our graves. We will be changed.

This message is why we are here in the Czech Republic. Here Christ is a mere symbol of a long-forgotten religion. At best, He is a philosopher. But we know that He is so very much more. Through His suffering, death, and resurrection, He has done enough to save the whole world; no one is excluded from that. And He gives us to share in that victory through the life-giving flood that is Holy Baptism. Therefore, we joyously acclaim: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. Thanks be to God!

Do not fear! Stay immersed in Christ!



The cross with its Lenten veil is processed



We thank the Lord for all of the people and ministries that support us. This month, we especially give thanks for:

Concordia Lutheran  
Vermillion, SD

Faith Lutheran LYF  
York, NE

Messiah Lutheran  
Marysville, WA

**Our address in Prague:**

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster  
Bubenečská 365/41  
160 00 Praha 6  
Czech Republic

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

Please, pray for the many visitors who will come for Holy Week.

Ask God to help us better learn the Czech language.

Pray for the people of Prague, that they might be drawn to the Church and the Gospel.

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](http://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

Our email address is  
[Dale.Kaster@lcms.org](mailto:Dale.Kaster@lcms.org)



**The Czech Team in Prague**

Later this year, I will have been working with the Office of International Missions for seven years. During that time, there have been so many occasions for team members to gather together for some much-needed fellowship. And it always seems that there is an obligatory picture of everybody at a table in some restaurant. I have pictures from all over Africa and Europe.

It makes me think about my vicarage year in Nebraska where the members told me, "When we meet, we eat." It is just that so often mission work can make you feel alone—you are far away from your family, your nation, your culture. So, when we come together, we thank God for our chance to worship and to commune together; but then usually comes the table picture. Recently, all our missionaries in the Czech Republic came together and ate ... actually, reconnected and encouraged each other. What a blessing from the Lord!

**College-Aged Bible Study Update**

At our first gathering, there were four of us. We thank God that this month we grew by one person. A young lady came who is part of a different faith. So, we are growing one by one, praying that we have opportunities to share Jesus Christ with them. In April, since our meeting is right before Holy Week, we have decided to show *The Passion of the Christ*. Please, pray that this might proclaim Jesus to many!



**The Challenges of Lenten Midweek**

The Czech Lutheran church does not have the tradition of midweek worship during Lent. But our congregation has a lot of influence from America! We felt great when we had a good turnout on Ash Wednesday. But that joy was challenged the next week when we had only three people—Dale, Martin, and Suzanne. This week was going to be better, members were saying that they would be there ... then the coronavirus showed up, and now we are canceled at least for this week. We pray that this might pass quickly!

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**Things Happening Here**

We are planning a congregational Easter luncheon. Dale is preparing a ham, and the members are bringing the sides and desserts. We are inviting our many visitors to join us for this annual celebration of the resurrection. Leaders are planning a day trip to one of the many historical and beautiful sites here in the Czech Republic. Martin is teaching the catechism to a local Czech, getting her ready for Holy Baptism.

Since this newsletter was started, we have learned more about what the coronavirus is doing here. The Czech Republic has shut schools, businesses, and its borders with its neighbors. On top of that, the USA is not a place to which we can go. Please pray for us that we remain healthy as we pray the same for you. 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** Mission Central  
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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Kaster – Czech Republic," in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at [www.lcms.org/kaster](http://www.lcms.org/kaster).