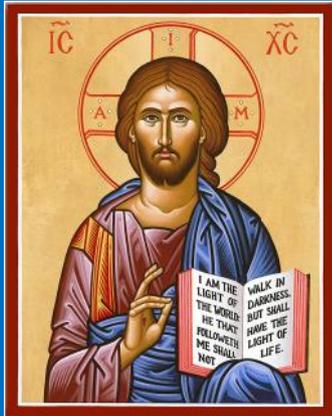




Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



June
2020



O God of light,
Your Word, a lamp unfailing,
Shall pierce the darkness
of our earth-bound way
And show Your grace,
Your plan for us unveiling,
And guide our footsteps
to the perfect day.

Undimmed by time,
those words are still revealing
To sinful hearts
Your justice and Your grace;
And questing spirits,
longing for Your healing,
See Your compassion
in the Savior's face.

To all the world
Your summons You are sending,
Through all the earth,
to every land and race,
That myriad tongues,
in one great anthem blending,
May praise and celebrate
Your gift of grace.

“O God of Light”
Lutheran Service Book #836



Deacon Damašek, Cantor Sovitzky
and Pastor Kaster

A Bittersweet Goodbye

One challenge in serving an expat community is that members are always coming and going. One family gets involved, and, before you know it, they have gone off, back to their home country. Over the past year, we have been blessed to have Richard Sovitzky serve as our cantor. Richard has an extraordinary voice and a deep love for the Divine Service. So, when we had to bid him farewell recently, it was a sad thing for us as a congregation, but also sweet to us, because he is leaving for pastoral studies at the Fort Wayne seminary. (Added to that, we will soon have to bid farewell to his sister Isabel as well, as she is leaving to work in one of our Lutheran school ministries.) So, as the congrega-

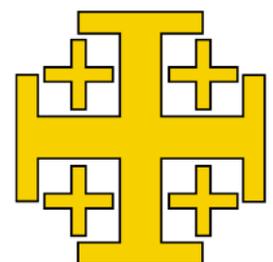
tion bids farewell, it does so as a holy “catch and release” program. That is, we receive them for a time, only to pass them on to be a blessing to others and in other places.

This is the work and joy of the Church. The local congregation is a seminary in the literal sense of that word, which means “seedbed.” In it, God abundantly sows His seed of the Holy Scriptures. Those words come into our ears and, further, even into our hearts, creating faith that clings to Jesus for salvation. Those words become visible in the Sacraments—water, bread, and wine—and deliver to us the forgiveness that Christ has won for us. And through these, the Christian grows to become a healthy seedling and then onto maturity and, from there, becomes a bearer of fruit. It is as the reproductive cycle of plants: seeds to plants, plants to seeds, and the whole thing continues on *in perpetuity*.

This means we are all missionaries of a sort. True, some have answered the call to be a “professional” missionary, those who engage cultures not their own with the Word of God. That includes learning languages, learning about the culture, and finding ways to bring that Word to people outside of the Church. But still, all Christians are missionaries at the very least in the lives that they live to the glory of Christ and in the calling of ever more sheep to hearken to the voice of the only Shepherd who can truly be called good. We—you there, and we here—are all a part of letting the world know the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are blessed to be a blessing.

We ask for your prayers for Richard and his formation as a pastor. But we also ask for your prayers for us, that our open-door and open-heart would be inviting to the next people who come to be fed and sent to be a part of the calling to the world. And know that we pray for the same thing for you and your congregation. Christ's return is ever drawing closer; therefore, let us be about His work.

Blessings, strength, and peace be unto you!



The Jerusalem Cross



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

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran
Hendersonville, NC

Our Savior Lutheran
Bettendorf, IA

St. Peter's Lutheran
Cornelius, OR

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

Pray for our visa renewal that all our paperwork would be received well.

Our regional director, Pastor Krikava, that God would use Him as a blessing to us.

The Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic, for a sense of mission.

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

or

Suzanne.Kaster@lcmsintl.org

A Baptism!

This month brought one of those moments that is a cause of great celebration—a child was baptized into Christ and into the Church. The family of the child are old friends of our Eurasia Regional Director, Rev. James Krikava. So, of course, he performed the Baptism and, led us in singing praises to our gracious God. Currently, we are catechizing two adults, one for Holy Baptism and the other for membership in the Lutheran Church. We thank the Lord of the Church for the growth that His Holy Spirit brings.



A New Way to Stay Linked to Us

When the Coronavirus closed down public worship, we adapted and started live-streaming services via our congregational Facebook page. From its reception, we realized that perhaps this is something that we should somehow keep in part. So, now, we are using the internet to publish a podcast of the sermon for each Sunday. You can find our podcasts [here](#) on Podbean. The files are in MP3 format, so they should be able to play on most players. Come by our site and check out the sermons we have already posted as well as check in with us each week as we bring the living Word of God to the people of Prague.

Czech Lessons

We are still taking lessons in the Czech language. It seems to us that the more we study, the harder it seems to get. Czech has a very hard syntax. And it also is a challenge to hear with an uninitiated ear. So, we are a year into our Czech lessons and are still trying to use this language. But word by word we are slowly making headway; and, even more, we are honoring the people of Prague by trying to use the language that they themselves know is hard.

¹ Na počátku bylo Slovo a to Slovo bylo u Boha a to Slovo bylo Bůh. ² To bylo na počátku u Boha. ³ Všechno povstalo skrze něj a bez něj nepovstalo nic, co je.

The text of John 1:1-3 in Czech

God Be with You!

It is hard for us, as Americans, to hear of the problems that our nation is going through. We are praying that God would use even the troubling times there to be an open door for many to share Christ. Please, remember that the Lord is indeed Lord and will never will forsake you!

Kristův pokoj s vámi! (The peace of Christ be with you!)

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster—

Your Missionaries in Prague, the Czech Republic

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

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR**
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Mission Central
40718 Hwy E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

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.