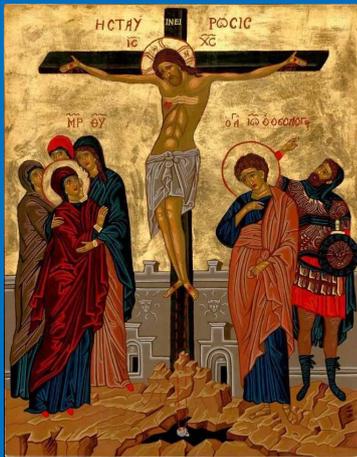




Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



July
2020



In the Heart of Prague

Prague is a city filled with churches ... unfortunately, empty churches. And, as you may guess, there are plenty of crosses here. Stroll through the heart of Prague, and you will see magnificent edifices erected to the glory of Christ. And for most, on top of that building or on its edifice is a cross of some sort. To miss the crosses here, one needs only to be blind. But the problem is, that though the cross may be seen all over the heart of the city, it has not reached into the hearts of most Praguers. It is just a part of their past but not an active part of their lives.

We sing the praise of Him who died,
Of Him who died upon the cross.
The sinner's hope let all deride;
For this we count the world but loss.

Inscribed upon the cross we see
In shining letters, "God is love."
He bears our sins upon the tree;
He brings us mercy from above.

The cross! It takes our guilt away;
It holds the fainting spirit up;
It cheers with hope the gloomy day
And sweetens ev'ry bitter cup.

The balm of life, the cure of woe,
The measure and the pledge of love,
The sinner's refuge here below,
The angels' theme in heav'n above.

To Christ, who won for sinners grace
By bitter grief and anguish sore,
Be praise from all the ransomed race
Forevermore and forevermore.

"We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died"
Lutheran Service Book #429

To be fair to Czechs, the cross, and the sacrifice that Christ made on it, is not a natural part of sinful mankind's thinking. St. Paul wrote, *"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God"* (1 Cor. 1:18 ESV.) Folly, that is what natural man thinks of the cross. It is a sign of weakness and death. What sort of God would lower Himself to such a horrible thing?

The answer: Christ Jesus, the Lord! *"[W]e preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God"* (1 Cor. 1:23-24 ESV.) He has given Himself over to the shame of the cross, so that He might confer upon us the honor of being the Father's dearly loved children. Christ has made that certain, through His death, burial, and resurrection. It is this truth that He seeks to work in the hearts of all people across this globe.

Recently, I was on my way to do some Catechism instruction with a young woman who desires to join with our congregation. I took a little shortcut through a passageway where I saw the graffito at the right. It was a simplistic drawing. But in its simplicity, a great deal was confessed. Pictured there is the salvation of the world. Pictured there is the cross that so many do not see. Pictured there is Divine love that seeks to gather the world to itself. It is my prayer that the unknown artist truly be a brother or sister in Christ. And if they are not, that the art they drew may draw them, and others, to the Divine love in Christ crucified for us!



A graffito crucifix



Sermon Podcasts

While we cannot record the whole service at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Prague, we are recording and posting the sermons as podcasts on the Pod-Bean web page. To listen, just visit our page [here](#). We post every Sunday sermon, whether it be by Dale or Deacon Martin Damašek or a guest preacher. We love knowing that you are hearing the Word of God with us and even praying for us as we lift up the cross of Jesus Christ to Prague, the Czech Republic, and to the world!





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

Zion Lutheran
Dexter, IA

Good Shepherd Lutheran
Pt. Pleasant, NJ

Grace Lutheran
LeMars, IA

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 missionaries in Silesia, Ben and Chelsea, that God would keep them healthy and bless their work.

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."

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Trip to Silesia

Silesia is an area that is in Poland and in the northeast corner of the Czech Republic. It is an area with its own traditions and its own Slavic dialect. But it is also where two wonderful missionaries—Ben Helge and Chelsea Irwin—live and work. It is Dale's privilege to bring them Word and Sacrament, and a listening ear. In early July, Dale was able to visit them and stay for a couple of days to see where they work and to be an encouragement to them. It was a great visit, and their joy is infectious. Please, pray also for them, especially for their health, as Silesia is a bit of a hotspot with the coronavirus.



A Congregational Trip to Cheb and Aš

Recently, our Prague congregation had an outing to the Western Bohemian cities of Cheb and Aš. It was a wonderful time with good food, beautiful cities, and encouraging fellowship. But we also took time to gather around Word and Sacrament. Neither of these towns has a Lutheran congregation anymore; therefore, we received the Divine Service in the dining room of our hotel. Aš holds the distinction of having the only statue of Martin Luther in the Czech Republic. And Cheb is filled with beautiful buildings and places to eat and drink.



A Happy Babička (Grandma)

Suzanne was able to travel home to offer some help to our daughter after she gave birth to our newest grandchild, Jameson. (That makes three beautiful grandchildren, and number 4 is on the way!) Only Suzanne was able to go because of the COVID restrictions. She had to be quarantined for 14 days before she could travel to our daughter's home. We thank God for all of our blessings and pray for our daughter and daughter-in-law that God would grant them joy and peace as they fulfill one of the greatest offices on earth, the Christian mother. Suzanne is back now in Prague.

We are making plans for an October trip to see both of the new ones.

Here in Prague the summer has been mild, and we have had a lot of rain. Because of the cool and wet weather, the fruit here is amazing. We pray that the Holy Spirit work even more within us!

Kristův pokoj s vami! (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 Kastersons, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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

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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.