

# LIFE IN CHRIST

Receiving God's Gifts — Sharing God's Gifts

*The Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Jackson, MS*

+ May 2020 +



About the Cover:

*Pentecost*

Jean Restout II

1732

In this classic work, Restout translates the traditional imagery of Pentecost iconography into what would be considered contemporary realist art. While depicting the scene in what could be considered realistic, or even hyper-realistic style, all the elements of the old Greek church art of the late Classical period and the Early Middle Ages is present: the light from above, representing the descent of the Holy Spirit; the Twelve Apostles, shocked, yet seated, representing their 'seat of authority' from which they will teach God's word; and Mary, the Mother of God, centered in the scene, in a position of glorifying prayer, herself a symbol of the Church, which shall stand throughout all ages. Mary, along with some of the Apostles are shown to be placed upon what obviously appears to be an altar. This is to show the unity of the Church (Mary), the preaching of the Word (the Apostles), and the Sacraments (the altar) in the life of the Christian who has received the Spirit first delivered on Pentecost to all who believe.

*Life in Christ*

is the monthly publication of

**Christ Lutheran Church, LC-MS**

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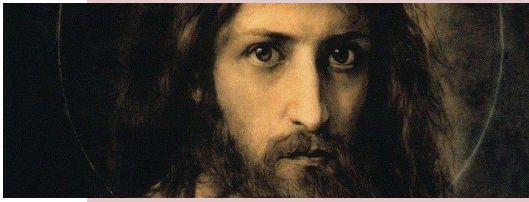
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Rev. Dr. James R Holowach

Rev. George Fields

Sr. Sara Fields



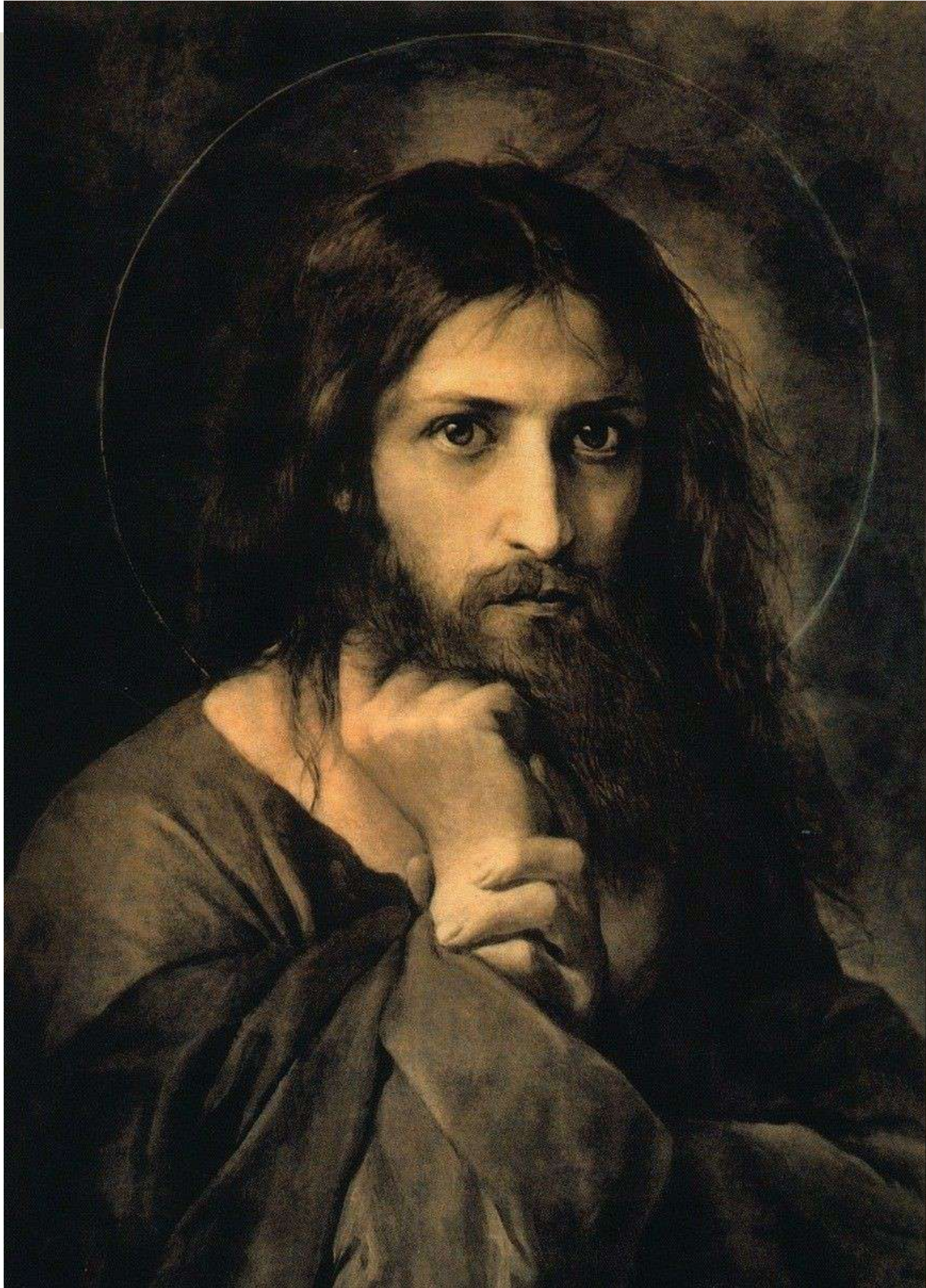
CONGRATULATIONS  
— 2020 —



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The Glory of the Lord is the

# Living Man

*Pastor Fields*

St. Irenaeus once wrote: 'The glory of God is the living man.' It is a strange saying, for why should God's glory be connected to man at all?

In the month of May we observe the most holy feast of the Ascension of Our Lord. Historically, this day was considered to be as highly celebrated as both Christmas and Easter. However, our current culture does not attribute to the Ascension the same degree of deference. Yet, let us who are of the Church understand the importance of the Ascension, and why it is considered the last of the acts of the Son being made Man.

Generally, when we speak of God the Son *being made man*, as is confessed in the Creed, we think of it as a direct reference to Christmas, that is, to the incarnation and birth of Christ. This is not wrong, but it is not entirely right either. It is worthy of note that when the Creed confesses Christ's incarnation, it does not give a time or date in the same way that it does with His crucifixion or resurrection, wherein it is written '*and He was crucified under Pontius Pilate*' as well as '*and on the third day, He rose.*' This is because these two following acts of Christ, His death and resurrection, are not considered something that happened *after* He was made man, but as *part of* His being made man.

In His conception and birth, the Son took on human flesh and nature, and therefore came to share in our physical existence. In His death and burial, God shared took on our sin and shared in our death. In His resurrection, He both accomplishes and is the first to enjoy the ancient promises of God given to humanity, the promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

This brings us to the final act of Christ *becoming man*, His ascension into heaven. For remember, man made in the garden by God was not made to merely dwell eternally tending to shrubs and herbs. Rather, Eden was Adam's cathedral, Tree of Life his altar, and like any altar in any Church, it leads to back to God.

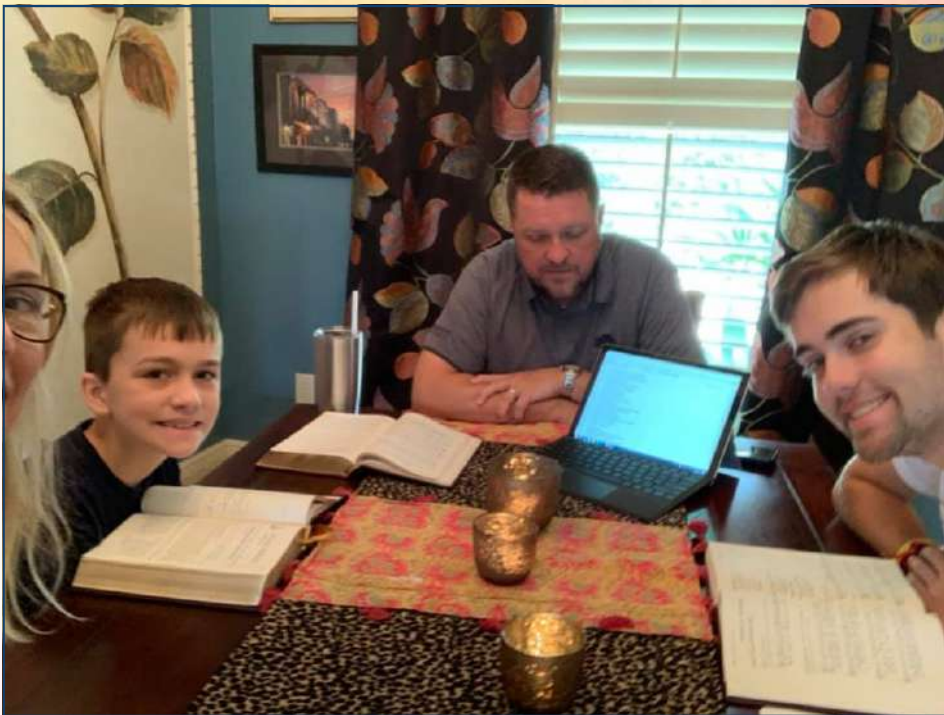
As has been discussed before, the final cause, the eternal purpose and goal of man was never merely to enjoy a sinless earthly existence, but to be made *partakers of the divine nature*, as St. Peter writes in his epistle, and to become conformed to *the heavenly man*.

*Continued on page 20.*

# together

while we are

# apart



What does it look like for the Body of Christ  
to worship together while we are apart?  
Take a look!



As the Apostle Paul says, “Neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor anything in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” And as the Body of Christ, we are united in a way that no quarantine can separate us either! We might be tucked away in our homes, but we are nevertheless together! ■

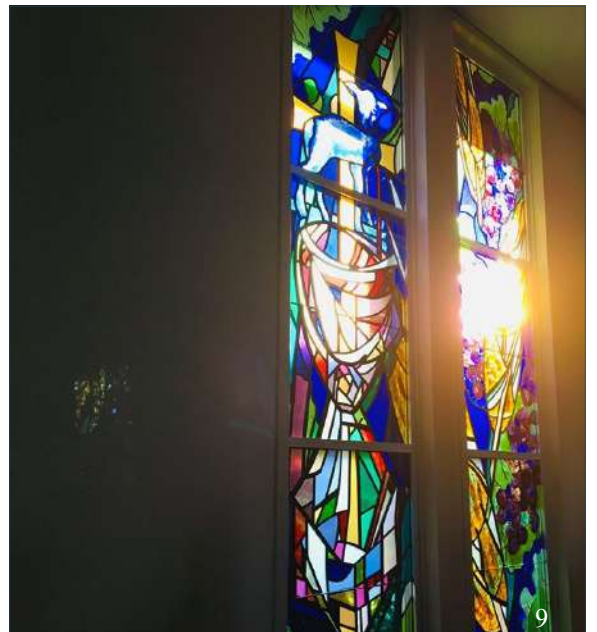
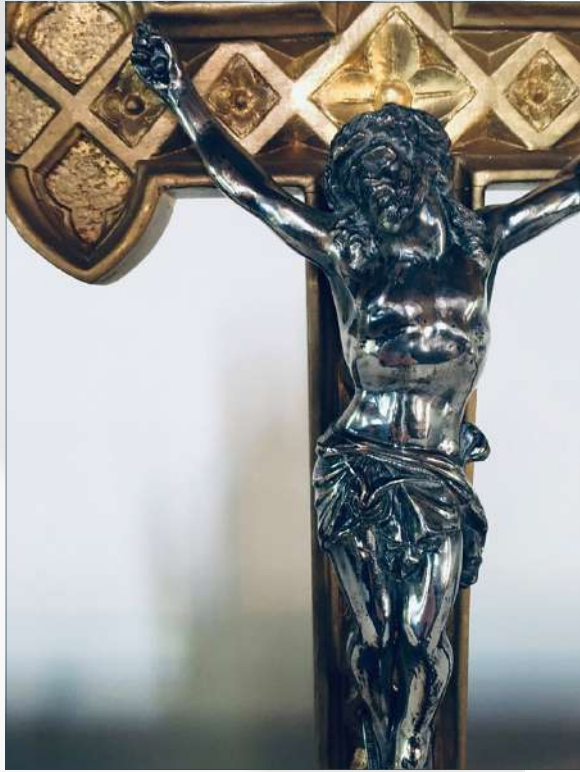
We sing with all the Church on earth, with all the Church in heaven, when we proclaim the words, “This is the Feast of Victory for our God! Alleluia!” Easter was different for us this year, but it remains eternally the same: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed—Alleluia! ■

# At the Lamb's High Feast

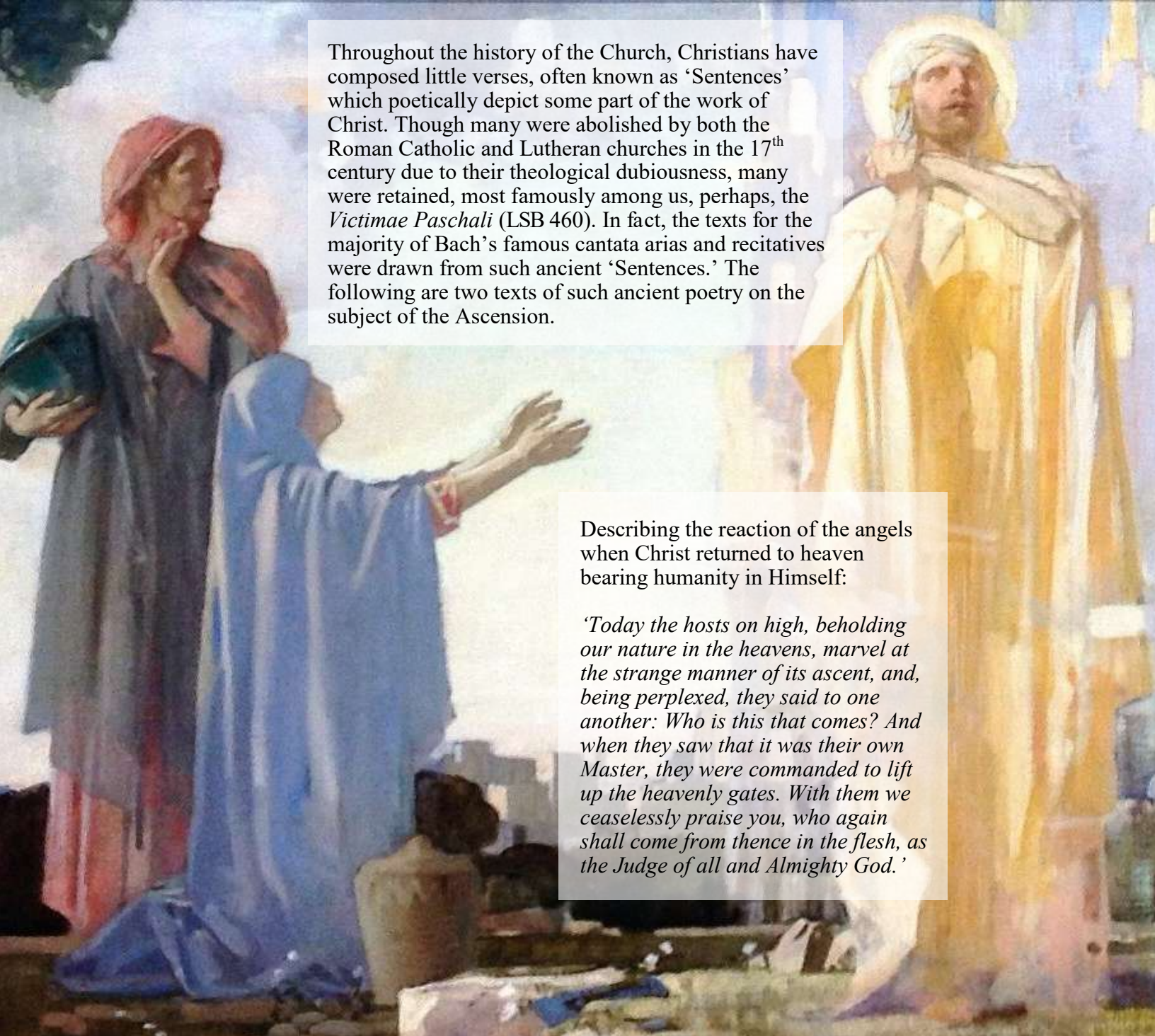
Christ Lutheran Easter







# Liturgical verses for the Feast of



Throughout the history of the Church, Christians have composed little verses, often known as ‘Sentences’ which poetically depict some part of the work of Christ. Though many were abolished by both the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches in the 17<sup>th</sup> century due to their theological dubiousness, many were retained, most famously among us, perhaps, the *Victimae Paschali* (LSB 460). In fact, the texts for the majority of Bach’s famous cantata arias and recitatives were drawn from such ancient ‘Sentences.’ The following are two texts of such ancient poetry on the subject of the Ascension.

Describing the reaction of the angels when Christ returned to heaven bearing humanity in Himself:

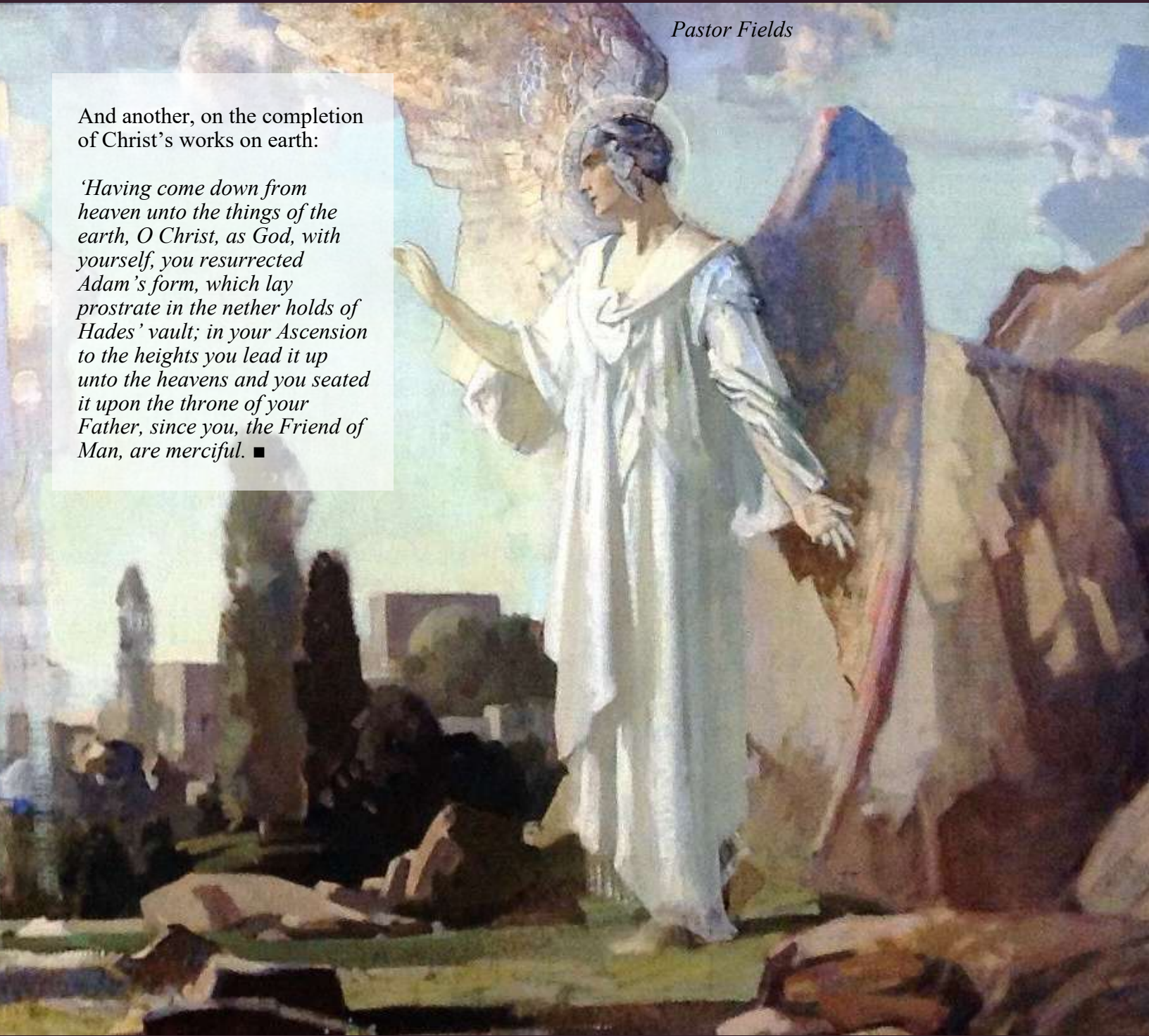
*‘Today the hosts on high, beholding our nature in the heavens, marvel at the strange manner of its ascent, and, being perplexed, they said to one another: Who is this that comes? And when they saw that it was their own Master, they were commanded to lift up the heavenly gates. With them we ceaselessly praise you, who again shall come from thence in the flesh, as the Judge of all and Almighty God.’*

# Ascension

*Pastor Fields*

And another, on the completion of Christ's works on earth:

*'Having come down from heaven unto the things of the earth, O Christ, as God, with yourself, you resurrected Adam's form, which lay prostrate in the nether holds of Hades' vault; in your Ascension to the heights you lead it up unto the heavens and you seated it upon the throne of your Father, since you, the Friend of Man, are merciful. ■*



# CONGRATULATIONS

— 2020 —



William Hagbart Nelson will be graduating from Northwest Rankin High School on May 13, 2020. During his time in high school, Will devoted himself to music and his studies, taking part in both of his high school bands, the marching band, and the woodwind quintet. Throughout this time, Will has also taken on leadership roles such as Drum Major of the marching band, president of the National Honor Society, and historian of La Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica. He has been awarded STAR Student and has been honored by consideration for the Presidential Scholars Program. He will enroll in the University of Mississippi in the Fall to pursue a degree in Music Education with a minor in Spanish.

Claudia Renee Nelson will be graduating from the Bagley College of Engineering at Mississippi State University on Friday, May 1st, at 2:00 pm. She is graduating Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science. While in college she worked in research in the electrical engineering department. She has accepted a position as a software developer with Bentley Systems in Huntsville, Alabama, beginning in July. ■





# Spring Cleaning

*Pastor Fields*

Many people have heard of the custom of ‘spring cleaning’.

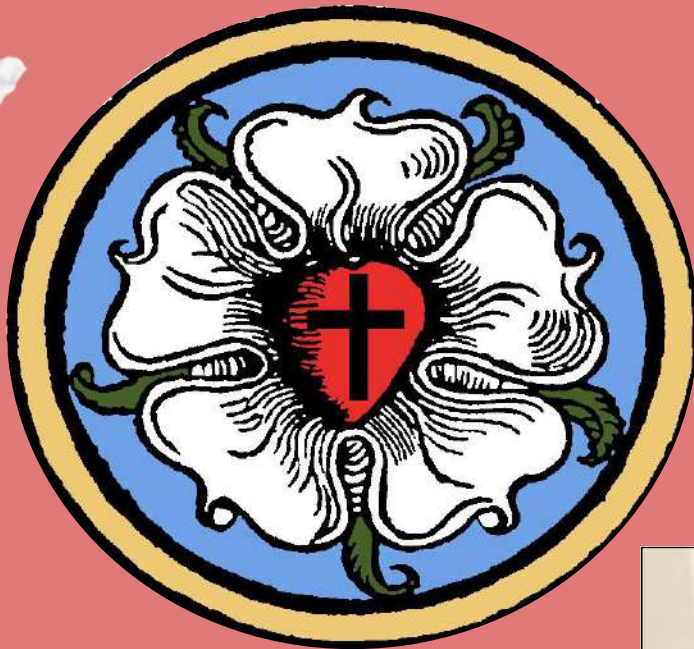
What few people know is that it is, in fact, a Christian religious custom that arose from a desire to have the home as clean as possible for the Feast of The Resurrection of Our Lord (more commonly known as Easter).

In ancient times, during Holy Week, usually beginning on the afternoon of Palm Sunday, all the articles of the house would be taken outside to be exposed to ‘living air’, and the house would be scrubbed clean: floors, walls, and all. The household items and furniture would also be cleaned outdoors, and then be returned inside to their proper place. This was all in preparation for the eating of a whole lamb by the family which took place on Easter Day. Such cleaning and preparation were considered necessary, since in former times, Easter dinner was considered not so much just another big meal on a holiday, but a religious feast, filled with a mix of prayer and revelry, much similar to the Passover dinners held today by observant Jews. It was also

a day to celebrate those newly baptized and confirmed, and to welcome them into the full life of the Church, filled as it is with both solemnity and rejoicing, since such sacred rites and sacraments took play on Easter Saturday, the night before.

In the countries farther north, such as Germany, Latvia, or Norway, where Easter usually fell on a day during a time when snow was still falling, and the air was much too frigid to wash anything, people were generally baptized or confirmed on the Feast of Pentecost, instead of Easter, when it was warmer; and so Spring Cleaning as well was moved to the week prior to Pentecost, during the last of the fifty days of Easter.

So, if the house needs cleaning, and the weather is pleasant, you too can engage in the very ancient (and very sanitary!) tradition of Spring Cleaning; and once your house is glimmering, invite a few friends over for dinner, and celebrate the great work of Our Lord. ■



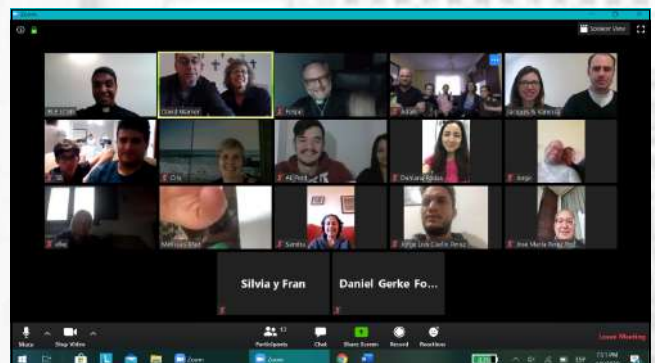
## Blessings Abound

God Strengthens His Church  
during CV-19

For the first time, services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Saturday's Easter Vigil were held for everyone. Usually each location gets one or two Holy Week services. Because of COVID-19, we could not do this. Instead, the pastors worked together to provide all the Holy Week services to everyone via the internet. This included two Easter Services, one broadcast from the individual homes of Pastors Machado and Lobo in Madrid, and the other simultaneously broadcast from Cartagena and Seville, with LCMS Missionary Pastor Lehman as Liturgist and Pastor Warner as Preacher. *What a blessing to see the faces of members from all across Spain, joining in fellowship around the Word to celebrate our Crucified and Risen Savior.*



The blessings of Zoom are that we can greet each other face to face before and after worship! This is a screen shot from Maundy Thursday Worship, which Pastor Machado led, and includes members and visitors from 8 different cities.





# Lutherans return to

# Spain

While we wait for Sunday school to start again...

The Pastors are taking advantage of this COVID-19 opportunity to reach ALL of our youth via a short Bible message before the worship service on Sundays. Many thanks to one of our supporting churches, Divine Shepherd Lutheran in South Dakota, and their Pastor Randy Sturzenbecher, for giving us this idea! Although we have almost 30 members under the age of 15, we only

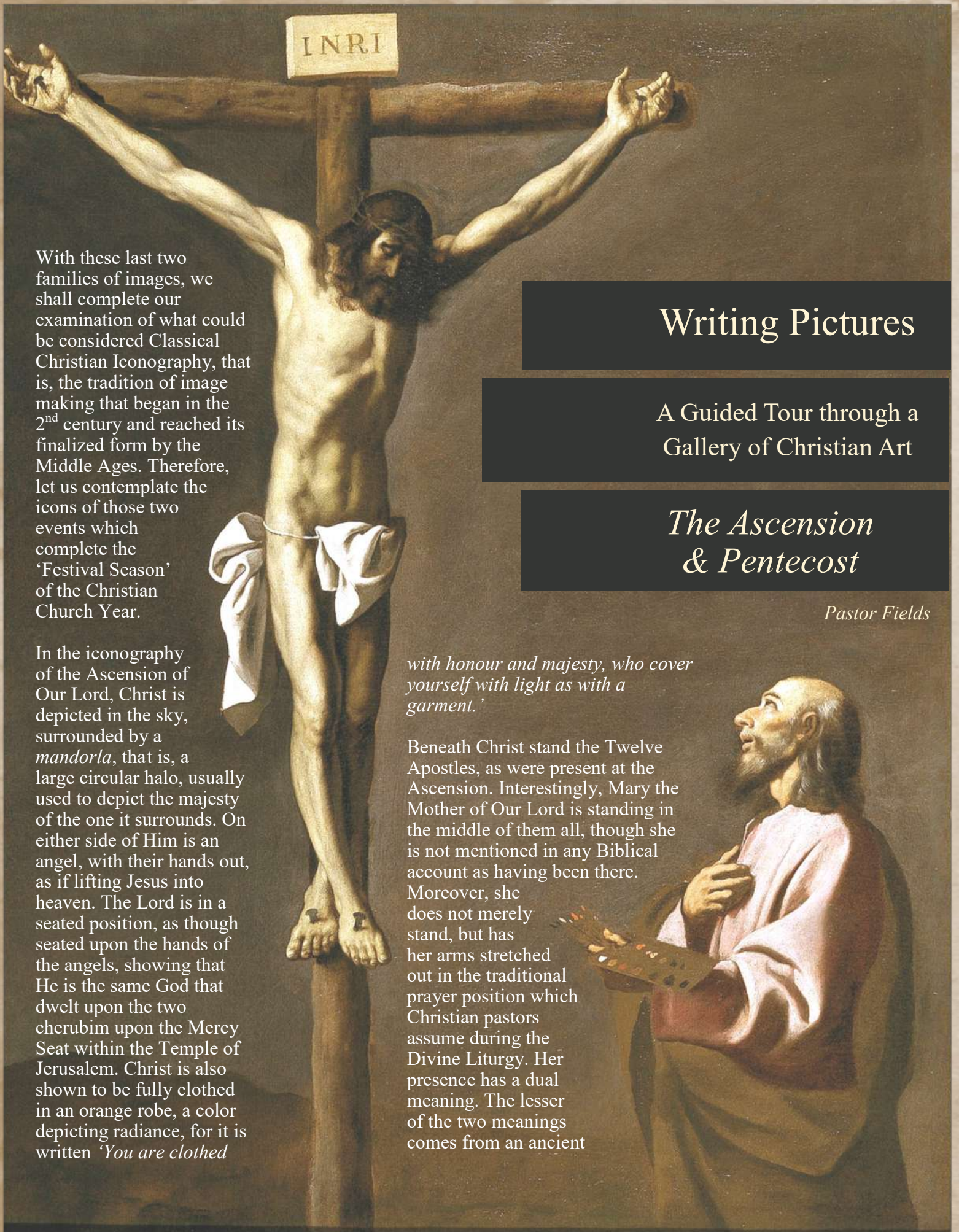
have a concentration of youth in Madrid, making regular Sunday School feasible there. We hope that these new weekly messages with the pastors will provide impetus for further children's study after CV19 restrictions are lifted.



## Praying for You

We are praying for each of you—our friends, our family in Christ, our donors--as you navigate the unknowns of CV19. May we focus on the LORD and the abundant blessings that He gives us in His Word, in our relationships, in our communities, in our church family, in our day to day lives. The LAC Region of LCMS Missions (mainly Spanish-speaking countries) celebrated SPIRIT WEEK, just for fun. We shared photos of ourselves in our group chat and enjoyed each other's creativity across so many miles. Here's our entry for Superhero Day: Covid Man and Wuhan Woman. May you smile today, laugh today, and praise God today! ■





With these last two families of images, we shall complete our examination of what could be considered Classical Christian Iconography, that is, the tradition of image making that began in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and reached its finalized form by the Middle Ages. Therefore, let us contemplate the icons of those two events which complete the 'Festival Season' of the Christian Church Year.

In the iconography of the Ascension of Our Lord, Christ is depicted in the sky, surrounded by a *mandorla*, that is, a large circular halo, usually used to depict the majesty of the one it surrounds. On either side of Him is an angel, with their hands out, as if lifting Jesus into heaven. The Lord is in a seated position, as though seated upon the hands of the angels, showing that He is the same God that dwelt upon the two cherubim upon the Mercy Seat within the Temple of Jerusalem. Christ is also shown to be fully clothed in an orange robe, a color depicting radiance, for it is written *'You are clothed*

*with honour and majesty, who cover yourself with light as with a garment.'*

Beneath Christ stand the Twelve Apostles, as were present at the Ascension. Interestingly, Mary the Mother of Our Lord is standing in the middle of them all, though she is not mentioned in any Biblical account as having been there. Moreover, she does not merely stand, but has her arms stretched out in the traditional prayer position which Christian pastors assume during the Divine Liturgy. Her presence has a dual meaning. The lesser of the two meanings comes from an ancient

## Writing Pictures

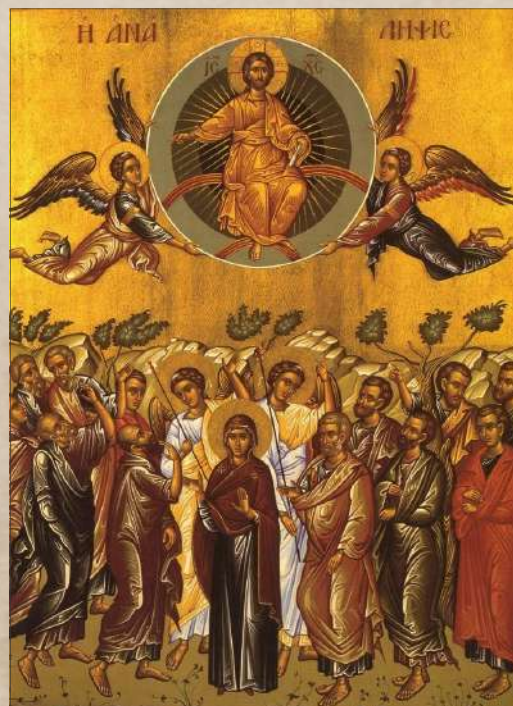
A Guided Tour through a Gallery of Christian Art

### *The Ascension & Pentecost*

*Pastor Fields*

tradition that, since God promised through Simeon that Mary would endure the greatest suffering in watching the woeful Passion of her Son, it was only proper that she also behold the greatest glorification of her Son in His Ascension. However, the more important, and indeed, true reason for her presence is that she represents the Church as a whole. The fact that she is flanked by angels on either side represents the 'angels and archangels and all the company of heaven' present during the Lord's Supper, and her extended hands represent the eternal prayer of the Liturgy.

Ancient icons depicting Pentecost have several themes in common. A fiery dove representing the Holy Spirit takes the place of Christ in the skies. Beneath again are the Twelve, with Mary once more in the middle, representing the Church. Yet instead of being standing, the Apostles, along with Mary, are seated, the pose assumed in ancient times when one was preaching (instead of having a pulpit, churches of the first centuries of Christianity had a *bema*, that is, a raised surface with chairs from which the clergy would read the Gospel and teach).



A final aspect present in most variations on the Pentecost iconographical theme is a background of darkened buildings, representing the unenlightened world into which the Gospel must be preached.

Passing from the icon of the Ascension to that of Pentecost, we see dual aspect of the life of the Church, the one being of the saints beholding and contemplating their risen Lord, eternally praying to Him, the other being the mission to teach and bear witness to the salvation won for us by the victory of Christ over death. ■

INTRIUGE: Division within Squirrel Empire!

Christ Lutheran Church  
4423 I-55 N  
Jackson, MS 39206  
2 May 2020

To Members of Christ Lutheran:

Christ Lutheran Church has sought to investigate the reason for the low level of attacks upon our property by the Squeakad Dynasty. Initial reports implied that the recent relative peace was due to the lack of Pastor Holowach's car in the parking lot, causing them to search far and wide, away from the church property, for their primary target during the month of April. More alarmist intelligence suggested that they were concentrating their forces for a great Summer Offensive. However, the most recent and reliable reports show that there has been an internal struggle within the Squirrel Empire between the establishment Squeakad Dynasty officials and pro-peace Squirrel underground forces. Evidence has shown that a small but growing insurgency has arisen among the trees of squirrels that desire an end to the war against Christ Lutheran. The Squirrel forces have been busied quelling this internal rebellion for most of the month of April. However, the insurgency leader, to our great dismay, has been discovered and sentenced to perpetual exile for treason and sedition after he was found mocking the absolute dictator of the Squeakad Dynasty with the following joke: "The Great Emperor Squirrel went to a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist asked him, 'So, what brings you here today?' The Great Emperor responded, 'I realized I am what I eat: nuts.'" Christ Lutheran Church is doing all within its power to support the pro-peace movement within the Squirrel imperium, and is attempting to locate and reach out to the now exiled leader of the underground peace forces. As always, we seek peace with the rodents, and the overthrow of their oppressive regime.

-Supreme Allied Commander Pastor Fields

In the Service of our Fearless Leader

*Continued from page 6.*

Therefore, Christ completes His *becoming man* by taking His human nature into the presence of the God of Life, to join human nature to that perfect communion with the Blessed Trinity for which it was always destined. In the Ascension, human nature in Christ comes to completion, Christ himself is made fully man insofar as his humanity now becomes fully God; He becomes 'the living man,' the Man who is united to Life

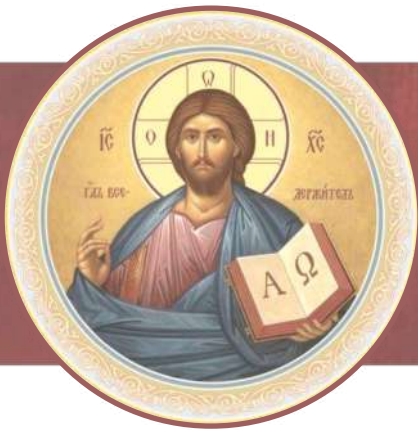
itself. This is the blessedness towards which the Church ever walks, and which awaits us on the other side of the veil of toothless death. In the Ascension, this is revealed to us; and in seeing that we too are united to Life Himself, that we too shall become 'living men,' the glory of the Lord is revealed in the completion of His loving will to bring all His saints into unity with Himself. ■

# Pastor Holowach

coloring contest



Winner: Emily Held



# THIS MONTH

## *At Christ Lutheran*



### Saints' Days in May

- 1 Sts. Philip & James, Apostles
- 2 St. Athanasius, Bishop & Confessor
- 4 St. Monica, Mother of Augustine
- 4 St. Friedrich Wyneken, Pastor & Missionary
- 5 St. Frederick the Wise, Christian Ruler
- 7 St. C.F.W. Walther, Theologian
- 9 St. Gregory Nazianzus, Bishop & Confessor
- 9 St. Job, Confessor
- 11 Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs
- 21 Emperor Constantine, Christian Ruler
- 21 St. Helena, Mother of Constantine
- 24 St. Esther, Queen
- 25 St. Bede the Venerable, Confessor & Theologian
- 31 The Visitation



### THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

+ May 31 +



#### Artwork in This Issue:

Cover: *Pentecost*, Jean Restout, 1732.

Page 4: *Portrait of Christ*, Ivan Kramskoy, 1837-87.

Page 10-11: *Resurrection of Christ*, Frederick Appleyard, 1874-1963.

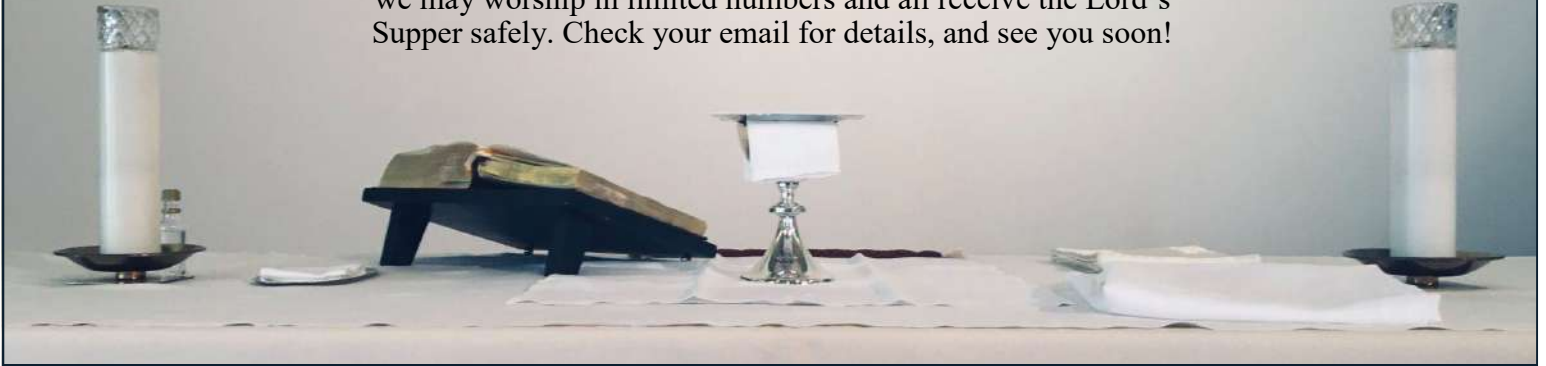
Page 18: *St. Luke Painting the Crucifixion*, Francisco de Zurbaran, c. 1650.

Page 19: Icons of Ascension, Pentecost.

# — Together Again —

## A Gradual Reopening at Christ Lutheran Church

Our reunion is close at hand!  
Christ Lutheran is implementing plans for a gradual reopening of her doors. The Divine Service will be held three times weekly, so that we may worship in limited numbers and all receive the Lord's Supper safely. Check your email for details, and see you soon!



Christ Lutheran Church  
On Facebook!

Find...  
Divine Services  
Bulletins  
Church Updates  
Blog Posts  
Devotions  
And More!



## NO OFFERING PLATE? NO PROBLEM!

Send your tithe to  
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Visit  
[ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org](http://ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org)  
and click the "Give" button at  
the top of the page



**THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION**

+ May 21 +

# May 2020

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>PRAYER FAMILIES</b> <b>and BIRTHDAYS</b> <b>Hansford Family</b> 1—Sister Sara 9—Nancy Teal	<b>3</b> <b>EASTER IV</b> 10:30 a.m. Divine Service	<b>4</b> <i>St. Monica</i> <i>St. Friedrich</i> <i>Wynneken</i>	<b>5</b> <i>St. Frederick the</i> <i>Wise</i> 6:15 p.m. Elders' Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <i>St. C.F.W.</i> <i>Walther</i>	<b>1</b> <i>Sts. Philip</i> <i>&amp; James</i>	<b>2</b> <i>St. Athan-</i> <i>Astus</i>  <i>St. Job</i> <b>9</b> <i>St. Gregory</i>
<b>Brent &amp; Becky Hathcock</b> 16—Mimi Bradley 16—Andy Evers	<b>10</b> <b>EASTER V</b> 10:30 a.m. Divine Service	<b>11</b> <i>Sts. Cyril &amp;</i> <i>Methodius</i>	<b>12</b> 6:15 p.m. Council Mtg.	<b>13</b> 6:30 p.m. Divine Service	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30 p.m. Divine Service	<b>16</b>
<b>Chuck &amp; Margaret Haynes</b> 17—Elysia Fields 17—James Hansford 18—Ben Rudsenske	<b>17</b> <b>EASTER VI</b> 10:30 a.m. Divine Service	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30 p.m. Divine Service	<b>21</b> <b>FEAST OF</b> <b>ASCENSION</b> <i>St. Constantine</i>  <i>St. Helena</i>	<b>22</b> 6:30 p.m. Divine Service	<b>23</b>
<b>Held Family</b> 30—Alaena Ramsey	<b>24</b> <b>EASTER VII</b> 10:30 a.m. Divine Service <i>St. Esther</i>	<b>25</b> <i>St. Bede the</i> <i>Venerable</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30 p.m. Divine Service	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 p.m. Divine Service	<b>30</b>
<b>Pastor &amp; Susan Holowach</b>	<b>31</b> <b>FEAST OF PENTECOST</b> 10:30 a.m. Divine Service  <i>The Visitation</i>	Events this month can be accessed online due to the state quarantine. Visit the Christ Lutheran Facebook page or go to <a href="http://ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org/LifeAtChrist!">ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org/LifeAtChrist!</a>					
		<b>Serving this month:</b> Elder—Keith Martin					