



Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.

Alleluia!

—At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing,
stz. 7
Lutheran Service Book #633

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Wahrlich, dieser ist Gottes Sohn gewesen! (Lutherbibel 1984)

Truly, this one was God's Son! (personal translation)

—Matt. 27,54

Divinity and the cross belong together, not apart from each other. Just ask the pagan centurion, along with all of his cohort. Unlike God's own people, they won't think twice before telling you this. With them, it simply wouldn't be any other way.

Not so with God's people. God's people want to see a divinity separate from a cross, so much so that they will dare and demand for such a scenario, to no avail from God himself.

Learn from the centurion and his cohort, who are accustomed to many things that God's people are not, in such a way that God's people are not. "Things are the way they are," they'll tell you. "God and the cross go together."

They'll be around when the risen Lord Jesus shows you His scars, thus affirming for you just as much. They'll be accessible when Paul reminds you that "we proclaim Christ crucified, a scandal to Jews, foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Gentiles, (this) Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1,23). They'll stand by your side, as disciplined and regimented as ever, until you come to terms with the truth that Jesus' glory is in His shame, until their confession of Jesus is your confession of Jesus. They'll be God's finest instrument to bring you to be the best Church there could possibly be.

That's Easter triumph. That's Easter joy.

*The centurion confessed Him the true Son of God,
so that no believer might doubt a fact that even the
servant of His persecutors could not deny.*

—Hilary of Poitiers,
On the Trinity, 3.10-11

(Scott R. Murray, ed., *A Year with the Church Fathers: Meditations for Each Day of the Church Year*. St. Louis: Concordia, 2011, 361).





Let Us Pray . . .

- For thanksgiving for the baptismal life
- That God would grant us repentance and faith in His promises in Christ
- For God's protection of His Church throughout the world
- In thanksgiving for a finalized *Lukaskirche* contract
- For continued blessing upon *Lukaskirche* planning and activities
- For a healthy and successful delivery for Elizabeth and our third child



Lukaskirche, Leipzig, Germany

Einige gute Nachrichten

There's much good news to share specifically concerning the work in Leipzig:

- 1) Chris' proposed *Lukaskirche* multi-year music outreach plan was approved by our board of elders;
- 2) The *Lukaskirche* test-phase contract has received all necessary signatures, moving many projects along, meaning that
- 3) The organ renovation project is finally moving forward, with an initial approach to an organ builder to occur in the near future
- 4) We began our choral outreach initiative on March 8, hosting the University of South Dakota Chamber Singers at *Lukaskirche*. Nearly 2/3 of those attending (approximately 100 total) were "new faces" (Please read more at: <http://eurasiablog.lcms.org/the-university-of-south-dakota-performs-at-historic-lukaskirche/>)

On the near horizon: the opening service for our congregation in *Lukaskirche* is April 6, for which we've planned a great festival, to which people near and far have been invited. We've been looking forward to this day for some time now, and we're glad that it's right around the corner!

Unsere wachsende Familie, früher als erwartet

We received a happy surprise at the hospital, namely, that our third child is coming not on April 5, but on March 23! We learned on March 5 (!) that it is standard practice in Germany to schedule a third caesarian section in motherhood (which is Elizabeth's situation) two weeks before the original due date. While we're certainly excited about this, it has resulted in an accelerated preparation. Our health insurance has done excellent work working with our hospital and ensuring that all financial items pertinent to the labor and delivery will proceed smoothly, for which we're grateful. Elizabeth's mother is coming for a number weeks to meet the new one, to assist with all things needful, and enjoy "Grandma Time," and we're looking forward to her arrival.

Look for an extra special edition newsletter next month, with *lots* to share!

May God in Christ through the Spirit bless you now and forever.

Highlights from the Eurasia Blog

- [Eurasia Blog Wednesday Devotion: His Steadfast Love Endures Forever](#)
- [Renovation Process Begins at Lukaskirche](#)
- Easter Season in Song videos and devotions will begin the Wednesday after Easter.

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