

Spirit that points the way to Jesus Christ.

And what's more He sends you out, not as you were when you came here this morning, but with His peace. Remember the peace of the Lord you received after your sins were forgiven, remember the peace you receive each time you partake of the Lord's supper. These are constant and true reminders of Christ's resurrection and they help remove all doubt.

We are not living in a world that needs to be shown that it is in shambles, we look at the news and we see it every night. We live in a world that has no peace. The world we live in does

not know that Jesus Christ, the living Son of God, came down from heaven and was born of the virgin Mary, that he suffered, that he died on the cross and was buried. They don't know that Christ arose from the grave for the sake of the whole world, that all people might be saved.

My brothers and sisters this is your charge, that you love on another as Christ loved you. That you speak of God's forgiveness and grace to all those who will hear it. That you receive the Holy Spirit and let Him guide you where and when he wills. And that you live in the peace that Jesus

Christ speaks to you here in this place every Sunday, in His forgiveness, in His body and blood, and in His Word.

And may the peace of God, which passes all human understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, Our Risen Saviour. Amen

---

## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' Disciples, who grow disciples, who grow disciples, who grow disciples...

1 May 2011

## WHOOPS THERE HE IS—James Leach

John 20:19-31

### Whoop There He Is.

This week as I tried to write this sermon, I found that I struggled to find the will to do it. It's not that I hadn't been looking forward to coming back home to Murray Bridge to preach to my brothers and sisters here in this church. It's just that I had struggled to keep my chin up through the normal everyday obstacles that came in my way. What's worse I had already forgotten what I heard God say to me through His Word last week about His great sacrifice, and what he did for me.

### Doubt in Christ

Then it hit me: this struggle is not

something that I am alone in. Correct me if I'm wrong but it seems to be a common problem for most of us in the weeks following the celebration of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. We get down on life, we feel the burdens creeping up on us and we tend to forget the good news of Jesus' resurrection. The reason it hit me so profoundly was because it is the exact same thing that happened to the disciples on that very first Easter, the day that our Lord and Saviour had been raised from the dead.

Mary Magdalene after Jesus had called her by name and had

revealed himself to her, ran back to the place where the disciples were staying and told them exactly what Jesus had said to her, that 'He was ascending to His Father and their Father, to His God and their God.' What amazing news she given to proclaim to them, but how quickly and easily their joy turned to dread. They did not yet trust Jesus or His resurrection, they doubted him, so they feared the Jewish authorities and bolted all the doors of the house.

It has now been seven days since we heard once again that Jesus is Alive, That He is Risen Indeed. And

today I want to ask you: Have you doubted your Lord Jesus Christ? Have you doubted his resurrection and the promises which these bring? Have you let your worries bolt the doors, trying to keep everyone out, Keeping Jesus Out?

**Doubts can't block Christ from appearing**

Let me just say if this is the case with you, don't worry, Bolts can't keep our Lord the risen saviour Jesus Christ out, not even the doors of death could do that. Jesus came on that very first Easter pass the bolted door that the disciples had barricaded themselves behind, the doors which prevented anyone coming in or going out. They were in that house full of fear, just

waiting for the Jewish leaders to arrive, arrest, beat and kill them. Then whoop there he is. Jesus Christ appears to the disciples in the middle of their house.

I wonder what the reaction would be if Jesus appeared in our

Have you doubted?

church today???

When Christ came to His disciples the words that He said were "Peace be with you". We shared this peace after receiving His forgiveness today in this service. Each of us acknowledged Christ being present with us at the beginning of the service when we started in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

And most importantly we receive his presence in Holy Communion every time we eat and drink of His body and blood. Or in other words The Lord's Supper is Christ appearing in our lives. Jesus the risen saviour appears in

this church, **every single sunday.**

Your sins are forgiven here, God's name is declared and His

Word is proclaimed here. Christ is here in this place. And in this place we receive His peace. Hallelujah.

**Mission the response of God's Peace**

So what is our reaction to Christ appearing to us? Is it to do as Christ has said to do after he gave his peace to the disciples??? Jesus says: Just as the

Father sent me, I send you.

We receive the peace of God here every Sunday, we pray to God for His strength and we go out into the world that God has placed us. We go back to our jobs, our studies, and our families, with the peace of God. But what does this mean practically? It means that because we have the assurance of God's peace on us we can live a life reflecting his peace. We hear on the news stories of chaos, of earthquakes, fires, floods, and storms. I even know that many people watched in wait on friday night for some disaster to befall the royal wedding. The world we live in and the people who surround us do not hear or feel peace. But this is

exactly what they need. They yearn for God's peace. And you are the only ones equipped to bring that peace into the lives of those around you.

Jesus said to his diciples:Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I

We receive Jesus' peace

am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.

What a responsibility Jesus gives us. Now that we have received the peace of God. Now that we have had our sins forgiven.

Now that he has revealed himself to us through Holy Communion. We are called to do the same. The Father sent the Son to die for us, to be a sacrifice for all our sin. And Jesus says to us, "Just as the Father sent me, I am sending you".

Jesus isn't sending us into an easy cushy world, he is sending us into the same world he was in. A world that hates truth and loves lies, A world that is alive in sin but dead to life. A world that is in chaos because of sin but yearns for true peace.

**The helper is given**

If this is seems a bit daunting to you don't worry. Christ does not send you out into the world alone. He gives you the Holy Spirit. The Spirit that is Truth, the Spirit that is Strength, the