



# Easter and the Ten Commandments

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

We interrupt our series on the Ten Commandments one more time to reflect upon the gift and blessing of the Resurrection of our Lord. As I focused upon the connection between Christmas and the Ten Commandments in December, so let me now show how the Commandments are involved in the cross and resurrection of Jesus (because Good Friday and Easter Sunday are an indivisible unit). Like Christmas, the Easter celebration in our culture has been completely overtaken by a secular and frivolous theme and purpose. The proverbial Martian observer, if he discovered anything at all about an empty tomb, would have to conclude that our celebration was primarily concerned about the welcoming of Spring—with new hats and fine

clothes, with jelly beans and chocolate, a mythical Easter bunny and little chicks, colored eggs, and a basket of goodies for the children. I'm not condemning these traditions, any more than I condemn the secular traditions of Christmas, but I am just observing that for most people in our culture today, Easter is only a meaningless children's holiday and church attendance is part of the tradition for some reason – who remembers why! In the minds of many, this is only a brief diversion from the significant stuff of life. How cleverly the devil hides the most important and significant event in history, which has life and death implications for every soul!

Even many who take the Biblical events of the season seriously do not rightly understand the connection

between the Law and the death and resurrection of Christ. Some think that Jesus came to institute a new religion. They think that He simply dismissed the Law of Moses, as if saying, "well the rules didn't work, so let's try love instead." Jesus evidently anticipated that misunderstanding when He said, "Don't think I have come to abolish the law and the prophets. I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them. . . . Whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the Kingdom of God. The whole purpose of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is founded upon the Law of God and the predicament that it brings us into. "All we, like sheep, have gone astray . . ." (Isaiah 53:6). "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God . . ." (Rom 3:23). "The wages of sin is death . . ." (Rom 6:23). "The soul that sins shall die . . ." (Ezek 18:4b). The problem that moved the Son of God to come down from heaven was our breaking of the Law (sin). That breaking of the Law brings the wrath of God upon us. That means we are under the death penalty, not only the penalty of physical death, but eternal death (hell).

*(Continued on page 2)*



Andrea Mantegna: *The Resurrection*. Tempera on panel (71 x 94 cm), dated 1457-1459. Musée des Beaux-Arts de Tours

**Inside this issue:**

New Library	3
Music Notes	4

*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. —John 20:31*

## Sixth Commandment, cont.

---

Jesus came to deliver us from the curse of the Law. “I have not come for the righteous, but for sinners” (Matt 9:13). “God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:17). “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom 6:23b). He did not deliver us by showing us how to live righteously (the Law does that), but by taking our place under the Law so that His perfect obedience is our righteousness. He also took our place under the punishment required by the Law. “God made Him to be sin for us” (2 Cor 5:21). “God placed upon Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6b). “The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matt 20:28). “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is handed on a tree’” (Gal 3:13-14). The crucifixion and death of Christ paid our legal debt in full. Jesus said “It is finished” (John 19:30).

So, the Ten Commandments have everything to do with Jesus’ death,

but why the resurrection? The resurrection is the heavenly affirmation that our account with God has been settled. Our sins have truly been forgiven, taken away, removed as far as East from West, buried with Christ, etc. The resurrection of Jesus is God’s own verdict that the sin of the world has been cancelled, “for He was delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification” (Rom 4:25). This is why the risen Christ retained the wounds in His glorified body, and showed them to the disciples with the word of absolution: “Peace be to you!” (spoken twice for emphasis). We don’t find the assurance of our forgiveness in our feelings and emotions, but in the objective fact of the resurrection of Jesus. If you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead (Rom 10:9) you may safely ignore the fact you don’t feel forgiven. God’s Word trumps your feelings. If you deny in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you should find no comfort in feeling forgiven because you are obviously placing your trust in something other than the finished work of Christ. This is why we

Lutherans do not sing the popular old hymn “Blessed Assurance.” That Methodist hymn harkens back to the “strangely warmed heart” of John Wesley in his famous Aldersgate experience. Early Methodism emphasized the importance of the feelings of assurance rather than the objective fact of forgiveness. We Lutherans do not find our assurance of salvation within us, but without – in the empty tomb and the word of absolute God connects with it. The resurrection of Jesus tore the curtain of the Temple in two, from top to bottom (Luke 23:45), the sign that our sins no longer separate us from the Holy God. The resurrection of Christ declares that we are forgiven, robed in His righteousness, and have access to the throne of God. We are set free from the curse of the Law. Thanks be to God!

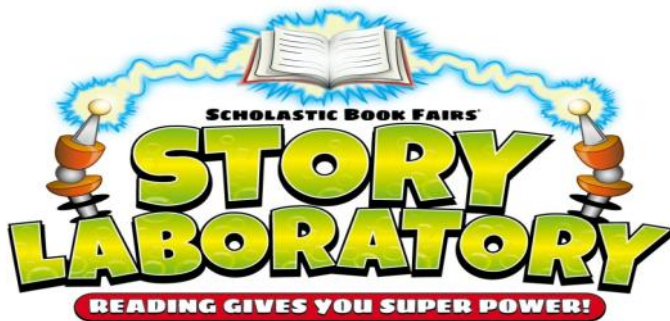
He is risen! He is risen Indeed!  
Alleluia!

Pastor Huebel

---

## A Scholastic Book Fair is coming to MLCA—April 19—26.

---



The fair, being held upstairs in the classroom next to the new library, will be open all week before school and around pick-up times (2:00pm and 3:30pm).

**The fair also runs online.** Go to: <http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/> and click on “Find a Fair” on the top right and enter our zip code (76248) to get the shortest search list. When ordering books, use “Marcia Huebel” for the teacher. **Books ordered from the website are shipped free to the school** and will be set aside for you to pick up from the church office at your convenience.

This is our third Scholastic bookfair at MLCA. The other two have been great fundraisers for our library. We have received over \$2000 in “Scholastic Dollars” for the purchase of new books.



# Our New Library is Here!

The Messiah Lutheran Church library opened in October of 1988, with 59 books on two small shelving/cupboard units in the back of the sanctuary by the cry room windows.



By the time our ECC wing was added in 1996, the library had added a couple of more shelving units and over 700 more books. The new wing had a room for the library, which today serves as the church office. The original church office was in the space now being used by Pastor Kitzmann. A short hall ran between that office and the copy room. In the early 2000s, the library was running out of room and we wanted, for visibility purposes, the church office closer to the narthex. The wall of the short hallway was taken down, enlarging the old church office, and the switch was made. By that time, we had over 2000 books. That library served well for quite a while.

When the academy moved into its new home, the library from down the hill was merged with the one here, and space began to be a bit tight. The crowding was made worse when the hallway mailboxes were added, and the library space shrunk 2 feet in width. (We did gain valuable storage space, however.) There was no place to go, so we adjusted and made the best use of the space we had. Our 5000th book was added in March 2008, and by 2010 there was no more room for growth.

Plans began to be made to move the library into the academy wing at a future date. When the accreditation committee began working, the library took on a new urgency, and plans were expedited for its move.

(In the meantime, our youth group decided to increase their space by moving to larger rooms down the hill, and the decision was made to move the library temporarily into the old youth room. It has served us well for almost two school years.)

The Messiah Parent Council took on the challenge of paying for the necessary remodeling and new furnishings. Members of Messiah committed to the construction and finishing out of the space. Without the hard work of all of these folks, we would not be dedicating our new library this month.

On April 14th, the new library space will be dedicated and open for business, with over 6300 cataloged materials and plenty of room for growth. It is a space for both our students and church members to use and enjoy. Come to study, check out a book or magazine, sit and read for a while! We have

books and movies for all ages in almost every subject. There are, of course, many excellent theological books, particularly in our adult section, on every facet of Lutheran doctrine. We also have many books on creation (vs. evolution), books written for specifically for teens, and books for parents. Our fiction sections include many time honored classics—books every child should read and enjoy.

Check out procedures will remain the same—a sign is posted by the card box on the circulation desk with instructions. We are hoping to keep this room unlocked and open for use at all times. As long as it is taken care of, we will. We do ask that all children be accompanied by **adult** at all times, and that no food or drink be carried in.

Come, read!





**Messiah Lutheran Church & School**

*The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Early Childhood Center: (817) 431-6139

Classical Academy (K-8): (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dennis Kitzmann, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Ellen Malzahn, Principal, Academy

Mrs. Alison Smith, Principal, Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Vicki Main, Kantor

Mr. Joseph Sustrik, Financial Director

[www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)

MESSIAH  
NOW ENROLLING  
2 YRS. - 8TH GRADE

WWW.MLCATEXAS.ORG

2 YRS. - PRE-K: 817-431-6139  
GRADES K-8: 817-431-5486

CLASSICAL ACADEMY  
LUTHERAN

IOI DEO GLORIA

NLSA  
National Lutheran School Accreditation

***Sing a new song to the LORD . . . .***



We in worship join with them;  
We in worship join with them.

This month we will be learning **LSB 534, Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor**. As you read through the four stanzas, I would encourage you to open your Bible to the scriptural references to enlarge the textural depth of this hymn – Revelation 1:5-6; 5:11-14; 7; 9-17; 1 Corinthians 5:7b.

1 Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendor,  
First-begotten from the dead,  
You alone, our strong defender,  
Lifting up Your people's head.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus, true and living bread!  
Jesus, true and living bread!

2 Though the lowliest form now veil You  
As of old in Bethlehem,  
Here as there Your angels hail You,  
Branch and flow'r of Jesse's stem.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Paschal Lamb, Your off'ring, finished  
Once for all when You were slain,  
In its fullness undiminished  
Shall forevermore remain,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain;  
Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.

4 Life-imparting heav'nly manna,  
Stricken rock with streaming side,  
Heav'n and earth with loud hosanna  
Worship You, the Lamb who died,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Ris'n, ascended, glorified!  
Ris'n, ascended, glorified!

Public domain

The melody of this hymn tune was written by **William Owen** and is used as a setting for several hymns.

In our hymnal, Bryn Calfaria (the hymn tune name), is also used for LSB 495, *Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious*, in the Ascension section. Owen was a Welshman who worked in a slate quarry. It is said that the original tune was written on a piece of slate while he was on his way to work.

**George Bourne**, born in Kent, England in 1840, was the son of a minister and wrote the text we have in our hymnal using Owen's melody. This hymn text was probably his most notable one. He served in many capacities – assistant curate, head master & warden of a school, chaplain to a bishop, Sub-dean of Salisbury Cathedral, and at the end of his life, Treasurer and Prebendary (type of canon in the administration of an Anglican cathedral) of Salisbury Cathedral. He died in 1925 in Salisbury, England.

Blessings as you sing!

**Vicki L. Main, Kantor**