

*How Can I Keep From Singing*

*Old Orchard Church*

*Second Sunday after Easter — April 18, 2010*

*Although the doors were locked,  
Jesus came and stood among them and said,  
"Peace be with you."*

*— John 20:26 —*

## *Celebrating Jesus Christ as the Resurrection Community of Peace*

Having taken us through death on the cross,  
Christ lives his risen life in us.  
He lives his peace in us:

A peace stronger than hatred  
And stronger than fear;  
A peace for anxiety,  
A peace for anger,  
A peace for wrongs suffered.  
A peace for all conflict  
Within and without.

Jesus gives peace,  
Yet not as the world gives it—  
By temporary truce,  
By begrudging compromise,  
By walking away,  
By crying, “Peace, peace”  
when there is none.

But the peace we know  
Is the Death-Destroyer’s sweet assurance  
That he makes all things serve him for our sake,  
And that by the sacrifice of himself  
The holy heart of God is at peace with us forever.  
*Jesus is alive! Sing alleluia!*



### Scripture Readings *Pearl String on Peace*

#### Sermon

*"On the Futility of Opposing God"*

*Matthew 27:62 - 28:4, 11-15*

*Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching*

## *On Christ's Peace*

**On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” (John 20:18-20)**

What did the disciples fear? They feared death. Yes, they were in the midst of death. But whence came that fear of death? From sin; for if they had not sinned they would not have been afraid. Death could not have harmed them, for the sting of death, with which it slays, is sin. Yet they lacked, as we all lack, the right knowledge of God. For if they had known God to be God, they would have been confident and without fear. But one who does not believe in God must be afraid of death. Such a person can never have a glad and sure conscience.

Whenever a person in such fear cries unto God, God cannot refrain from helping him. Just as Christ did not stay long outside, away from His frightened disciples, but soon was there comforting them and saying: **‘Peace be unto you’, ‘I am come, be of good cheer and fear not’**, so it is still. When we are afraid, God lifts us up and causes the Gospel to be preached to us, and thus restores to us a glad and sure conscience.

Where Christ is, yea, surely, the Father and the Holy Ghost surely come; then there is pure grace and no law; pure mercy and no sin; pure life and no death; pure heaven and no hell; and there I take comfort in the works of Christ as if I had done them myself.

*Martin Luther  
Sermon for the first Sunday after Easter, 1526.*

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We celebrate the Lord’s Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.  
And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**  
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