

I find this fine piece in the Easter Bulletin of Pastor Peterson's church at Poplar Bluff, Mo. (Also a son of this church)-It will do to start with:

In Joseph's lovely garden The Lord Christ's tomb was made;  
And there His broken body To rest was gently laid.  
A great rock strongly sealed it That death might have full sway;  
But God sent down His angel to roll the stone away.

When dawn was faintly breaking Across the garden fair,  
Three women entered weeping, All bearing spices rare.  
Then spoke the guardian angel, In shining raiment bright:

"He whom ye seek is risen, And death is vanquished quite!"

O angel of the garden, Descend on us today  
And comfort all our sadness and drive death's fear away.

We all are sorrow-laden; speak to our hearts, we pray:

"He whom ye love is risen And lives with Christ alway!"

(Author unknown)

THE WEATHER, folks, has been very changeable and abnormal this spring. The highway at the Davis bridge near Sweet Springs has been closed twice already. It rained Easter morning until well toward church time, then it cleared up in the afternoon and looked like good weather. Monday and Tuesday it rained again, was dreary and cold and chilly; Wednesday for Fritz Lohman's funeral it was nice and clear, but Friday it came down again in torrents. It will make it extremely late for our good agriculturists to do their stuff this spring, and our city farmers are prancing up and down Main Street and looking at the clouds, and then look some more when they are not playing in the mud of their garden plot. We know now, at least faintly, what the going was like over there in the classical mud of old Italy!

THE SERIOUSNESS of the times and THE CONCERN FOR SPIRITUAL THINGS crops out again and again in your letters to me. And that is highly gratifying to your pastor. If you have any questions that bother you or anything that puzzles in your contacts with people of all sort of religions and of none, please, feel free to write. If it is of such a nature that it should not be aired in the Bulletin, I shall be glad and happy to do what I can in a private letter to you.--Let us all, then, in these days of uncertainty stay close to our Heavenly Father by means of His Word and Prayer!--If you have a pastor or chaplain of our faith, good and well. If you have not, God is just as near to you in His Word, and you can reach Him at any time and at any place by your prayer and speak to Him just as you would to father or mother at home, sometimes even more intimately and frankly and confidentially. Let us never begin the day nor close it without communion with Him. And when the going gets tough as it may be soon for some of you, remember we are supremely safe in His keeping wherever we are and go provided that it be in the way of our calling. None of us have any business to be foolhardy in the way of some of these tin-can heroes that the newspaper fellows some time write about in their mistaken notion of building up morale either at home or at the front. But when the danger is 'legitimate' and your 'business' then the Lord and the Church want you to be good soldiers of Christ and of the U. S. as well, who know themselves altogether secure in the keeping of the Mighty and Merciful and Understanding Christ!--What a comfort and how reassuring for us to know that HE SITS AND REIGNS ALL THINGS AND ALL MEN.--He will arrange all for the BEST OF HIS PEOPLE.

LT. SYLVESTER wrote me two airmails this week, written March 20 and April 6, but received only a few days apart. Is now somewhere in England. Had been in a very cold place, rode on a dog sled, also fished through four feet of ice, but no luck. Says that the climate of England feels a whole lot colder than it is by thermometer. Saw a very beautiful cathedral built in 1116.--Eugene, I wrote you an airmail yesterday and answered your question.--VERNON REHKOP writes on Easter Day from Ft. Jackson, S. C., sends program of service of the division held outdoors with half a dozen chaplains taking part. Ran into Virgil Borgstadt at the services who told him that Melvin Bertram had just been sent down there also.--Vernon, I mailed

you his address.--Old Hansie Schulze has been painfully ill with rheumatic fever down at the Nav. Hosp. at San Diego, the same where daughter Martin was nurse when first going to the navy. He is better and can write a letter. (Hansie, I wrote you an airmail, also reported and asked for a pastor to be sent you.)--He wishes a happy Easter to us all, esp. to all boys and girls in the service. Walter Stuermer at Camp Kohler, Cal. also was in the hospital with an operation for hernia. Mama Stuermer informs us that he is doing well, as is also his wife at the Wheatridge Lutheran Sanatorium.--Elmer Bokelman is with the C. B.'s in the South Pac. He wrote on Good Friday which was also his birthday. "If you see my folks Sunday tell them I am O.K."--Thinks he knows two boys I mentioned in my letter of March 23th, Louis Brandt and Orville Sprinkle with whom he worked in the Corder Coal Mine years ago. Melvin Rehkop writes from Iceland on Palm Sunday, says he is glad they see the sun a little now, was glad to see Luth. Chaplain at service, but the man was in great hurry to go to next place to preach, and told him to be back Easter Day.--Willard Stuenkel and Curtis Kammeyer wrote a letter together from down under, it got here just before Palm Sunday and it was appropriate, so I printed some of it in Bulletin on that day where you may read it. I also referred to it on Re-union night and read a letter from Verna Bockelman which was handed me by Verna Gieseke.--Yesterday, received a five page airmail letter (very thin and small sized pages) written on Maundy Thursday by Marvin Martens who left the states two months ago for somewhere over in old Europe. Used to have four St. Paul boys in his outfit: Vernon Schlesselman who now has discharge, Prigge was transferred and Fuchs is out of range. Now he is all alone, but many Lutheran boys in the outfit. Complains about them not going to church, only three took communion on that Maundy Thursday. Seems surprising to him for men who are in combat area. "I don't know what it is, but I ask you to tell the mothers in St. Paul's to write their sons reminding them to go to church, attend communion etc. I know it's the old folks' policy to let sisters and brothers do the writing, but their pleas and reminders are not as effective as mama or papa themselves. I write from experience. Get a big kick out of sister Ellen's letters, but when mama writes I break down in tears for joy and thankfulness that I have Christian parents!"--(BOYS, when your letters really have some news or sentiment in it, I generally mail them to your folks before Miss Lulu sticks them up on Bulletin Board in school, this Marvin letter I will mail to them tomorrow)--And here is one, the last one this week, which I got back from his folks already, written by Harvey Poese on March 20th. He is in sunny, or was it muddy?, Italy. Has a hard time finding a Luth. chaplain, wrote to two of them, but they were not Lutheran. So he makes out with private worship with his Prayerbook and the Loyalty pamphlet with complete service. (Boy, that is fine, good to have a chaplain and pastor, but after all, you can speak to your God directly and He speaks to you!) Arnold Flandermeyer is about 100 miles from him, too far to see each other. "This is a country of dirt and filth. For the most part they are poor and in rags, there is hardly any live stock and very few chickens. Eggs are from 15-20¢ a piece.--I consider myself lucky, we have good eats and sleeping quarters and plenty of entertainment when we are off duty."--Her sister Marie just now tells me that Edna Richter was in church on Easter Day also. She was on her way from Jefferson Barracks to Alabama: Lt. Edna E. Richter, A.N.C. Sta. Hosp., Maxwell Fd., Ala.--Just now, 4/15 at 5 p.m., rec'd "Nups" Oetting's airmail written Easter. Thanks, son. Sent it on to your dad.--Well, folks, that will be about the end of my letter this time. In a week most of you ought to have it.--Don't forget the Military Service on May 7th. Should be mighty glad to have any of you with us that day. We are to feature the homes on that day and preach esp. to the parents and home folks. If you can't come, think of us, and say a prayer for us.--Then on May 14, Mothers' Day, comes our annual offering for the work among the military.--You will find envelope enclosed. If you are able and willing you may mail your contribution either to me or your folks. And if it should be a few days late, it will not matter.--Jimmy Mueller passed physical now also and will soon have to go.--The girls cut the stencil on the league paper, you ought to be getting lots of mail all at once.--It is still dreary, wet, and cold on this Saturday after Easter.---WE PRAY: "May the joy of Thy salvation Be their strength and stay!  
May they love and may they praise Thee day by day!"

Yours Sincerely,  
O. E. Heilmann