

## THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD—EASTER DAY

Easter Light—Resurrection Light

April 5, 2026

9:00 & 11:00am

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### AS WE GATHER

Are you wearing a new outfit for Easter? The custom of putting on new clothes for Easter Day has a long Christian history. In the earliest centuries after the ascension of Christ, newly baptized Christians wore white garments of new linen as a visible sign of the newness that being baptized had brought into their lives. Soon it became a tradition that all the faithful would join the newly baptized in arraying themselves on Easter in a new outfit to symbolize the new life that Jesus, through His resurrection, made a reality for all believers. The new clothes were much more than a fashion statement; they were a statement of faith. No matter what we are wearing today as individuals, together we share the best eternal clothing there is!

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

**9:00 BELLS**                      *“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”* arr. Sondra K. Tucker

**11:00 PRAISE TEAM**            *“Easter Song”* by Anne Herring

### WELCOME

### VERSE

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Hebrews 13:20-21**

## HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✂ PREPARATION ✂

(Rise and face the entrance to the sanctuary)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**People: He is Risen indeed!**

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

Pastor: “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

**People: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.**

Pastor: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Let us praise our Risen Lord Jesus Christ!**

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN #457 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Jesus Christ is ris’n today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heav’nly king, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky He’s king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!  
Praise Him, all ye heav’nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

## INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;

**People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

**People: Jesus our Lord was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.**

Pastor: If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

**People: God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our creator and preserver, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are stained by sin from our very beginnings and we have sinned again and again in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves and have often turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil you forbid and have not done the good you demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for all our many sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us for Jesus' sake, and by the power of the Holy Spirit direct our lives so that we serve you in true faithfulness. Grant us victory over all that oppresses us and build your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: In His boundless mercy, God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him for restoration and renewal. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. God keep you strong in the Holy Spirit and grant you a life on earth in which you live in baptismal grace and joyfully tell of His greatness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB p. 155

**Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God the Father, through your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, you have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**9:00 CHOIR**

*"The Strife Is Over"*

☩ **WORD** ☩

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Jeremiah 31:1–6* (The Lord has love for His people forever.) "At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people."<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD: "The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest,<sup>3</sup> the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.<sup>4</sup> Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.<sup>5</sup> Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit.<sup>6</sup> For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.'"

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 16**

**People: Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.**

*Women: I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.*

*Men: The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.*

**People: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.**

*Women: The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.*

*Men: I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.*

**All: For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**EPISTLE** *Colossians 3:1–4* (Paul writes that our lives are hidden with Christ in God.) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**9:00 CHOIR** "Easter Song"

**11:00 SOLO** "Christ Arose!"

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 28:1–10* (He is not here!)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he<sup>[a]</sup> lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." <sup>8</sup>So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

**SERMON HYMN #461 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" Stanzas 1-6**

I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above;  
He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye;  
He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

9:00 Choir Only / 11:00 All Sing Stanza 5

He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; He lives and loves me to the end;  
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest and King.

**SERMON** "Nothing to Fear For Christ is Risen!" Matthew 28:1-10

(Rise)

**HYMN #461** **Stanzas 7-8**

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives; I know that my Redeemer lives!

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

(Be seated)

**11:00 PRAISE TEAM** "Love Crucified Arose" by Michael Card

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.  
Lord God, on this glorious day, fill your people with a holy joy at the resurrection of your Son!

**People: Bless us by your Spirit that we would tremble no longer before the grave but rejoice and live in the truth of your power to save.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, as you once chose apostles to proclaim the resurrection, so open the mouths of your pastors and people to declare His praises to all who will hear. We give you thanks and praise that Pastor Richard Schneider has accepted the call to serve as our next senior pastor.

**People: Bless all pastors and missionaries, especially our Together in Mission partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family.**

Pastor: O Lord, lead your people in your steadfast love, and guide them in strength to your holy Truth.

**People: Sanctify our homes. Be the companion of those who live alone. Make our households places where your wisdom, love and grace abound.**

Pastor: Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power. Grant that all in authority would govern according to your will.

**People: Bless our leaders to maintain justice and order, curbing evil, that we may live in peace.**

Pastor: Merciful God, have mercy on the sick and those in any need especially Barb, Michael, Marlene, Barb, Katherine, Zach, Carole, Kathy, Dan, Maxine, Pam, Marilyn, Dorothy, Janet, Jerry, Paula, Rhonda, Harland, June, Sharon, John, Debbie, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Guy, Jill, Cathy and Sarah. Let the dawning light of the new creation in Christ sustain them in faith.

**People: In accord with your will, grant them renewed health — a foretaste of their eternal healing in Him which is certain to come!**

Pastor: Almighty God, give us joy in your Son's great victory feast as He shares it with us from this altar. In the eating of His true body and the drinking of His precious blood in faith, overcome our sin by His forgiveness.

**People:** Fill us with faith that He has swallowed up our death in His life, that we may be glad and rejoice in His salvation.

**Pastor:** We praise your holy name, O Lord, for all your servants who have departed this life in faith.

**People:** We pray that you would fill us with faith in the coming resurrection of all flesh, that when we arise your presence will give us joy.

**Pastor:** O Lord, heavenly Father, you have not let your Holy One see corruption, but have raised Him in triumph from the dead, never to die again. Therefore, our hearts are glad and we rejoice, for our flesh also dwells secure. Since you have set Him at your right hand, lead us to set His resurrection before us at all times, that His path of life and the fullness of joy in His presence may be known to us, until we come also to the eternal pleasures at His right hand, forevermore; for you, O Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**PREFACE**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**PROPER PREFACE**

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to you, our gracious heavenly Father, for in your goodness you have given your only-begotten Son for our salvation. By the guiding of your Spirit direct our ways that we be filled with His presence. Kindle in us the fire of your love and grant that we ever make the good confession of our faith. Grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in your eternal kingdom. To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**SANCTUS**

LSB p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**PAX DOMINI**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** Amen.

**AGNUS DEI**

LSB p. 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**HYMN #469**

**"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"**

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today!" Saints on earth and angels say;  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.  
  
Love's redeeming work is done, Fought the fight, the battle won;  
Lo! Our Sun's eclipse is o'er; Lo! He sets in blood no more.  
  
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.  
Death in vain forbids His rise; Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy victory, O grave?  
Soar we now where Christ has led; Foll'wing our exalted Head.  
Made like Him, like Him we rise; Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.  
Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n! Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!  
Thee we greet triumphant now: Hail, the resurrection, Thou!

**HYMN #466 "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"**

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.  
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, Even from death, dispelling its gloom.

**Refrain** Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;  
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!

For three long days the grave did its worst  
Until its strength by God was dispersed.  
He who gives life did death undergo; And in its conquest His might did show.

**Refrain**

The angel said to them, "Do not fear! You look for Jesus who is not here.  
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare; Only the grave cloths are lying there."

**Refrain**

"Go spread the news: He's not in the grave; He has arisen this world to save.  
Jesus' redeeming labors are done; Even the battle with sin is won." **Refrain**

Christ has arisen; He sets us free; Alleluia, to Him praises be.  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing; He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. **Refrain**

**HYMN #477 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"**

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim For the world's salvation bled-  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat;  
See the ancient pow'rs of evil In confusion and retreat;  
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.

(Rise) Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:  
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord God, heavenly Father, ruler of all things, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come through this blessed Meal. Send your Holy Spirit that, having now received this wondrous Sacrament, we may die daily to sin through our Baptism and rise new and restored as we joyfully continue our earthly pilgrimage until that time when we are gathered into your heavenly kingdom to share in your glory for all eternity. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

**ACCLAMATION & BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**People: He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN #478 “The Day of Resurrection”**

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,  
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, From sin’s dominion free,  
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light  
And, list’ning to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own “All hail!” and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav’ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin,  
Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end!

All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,  
All praise to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!  
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne  
And honor, pow’r, and glory Ascribe to God alone!

Preacher & Liturgist

Lectors

Organist

Soloist

Special Music

Pastor Harold Bender

Dalen Heinzen, Jim Laux

Deaconess Carole King

Anna Carson

Praise Band