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**Sunday, April 9, 2023**

**An Easter Service of Song and Scripture**

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Through song and verse, we recall the events that happened on the first Easter morning, and rejoice in the meaning of our Saviour's resurrection.

## Easter Greetings

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Congregation: Amen!**

Pastor: The Lord is risen!  
**Congregation: He is risen indeed!**

Pastor: This is the day the LORD has made;  
**Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## Opening Hymn

*CW 150:1-4 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia"*

**Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!  
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!  
See the place where he was laid; Alleluia!  
Praise him for the ransom paid. Alleluia!**

**For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!  
Sinless in the sinners' stead. Alleluia!  
"Christ is ris'n," today we cry; Alleluia!  
Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**

**Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!  
God and sinners reconciled. Alleluia!  
While, in strange and awefull strife, Alleluia!  
Met together Death and Life. Alleluia!**

**Christ, who once for sinners bled, Alleluia!  
Now the first-born from the dead, Alleluia!  
Throned in endless might and pow'r, Alleluia!  
Lives and reigns forevermore. Alleluia!**

## Introductory Devotion

*Because I live, you also will live.  
(John 14:19, EHV)*

## Confession of Sins

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life, innocent death and glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

M: In the peace of this forgiveness, Let us praise the Lord.

*CW 157:1-2 "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!**

## **The History and Meaning of Easter Day in Seven Lessons**

### **The First Lesson**

*"Jesus Appears to the Women at the Grave"  
Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 – select verses*

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb?" But when the women looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

When they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their face to the ground, but the men said to them, "Do not be afraid. Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid, Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

## Hymn

CW 159 "Morning Breaks Upon The Tomb"

**Morning breaks upon the tomb;  
Jesus scatters all its gloom.  
Day of triumph through the skies,  
See the glorious Savior rise.**

**You who are of death afraid,  
Triumph in the scattered shade.  
Drive your anxious cares away;  
See the place where Jesus lay.**

**Christian, dry your flowing tears;  
Chase your unbelieving fears.  
Look on his deserted grave;  
Doubt no more his pow'r to save.**

## The Second Lesson

"Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene"

*John 20:1-18*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said, "'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

### Hymn

*CW 165:2-3 "O Sons And Daughters Of The King"*

**On that first morning of the week,  
Before the day began to break,  
The Marys went their Lord to seek.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**An angel bade their sorrow flee,  
For thus he spoke unto the three,  
"Your Lord will go to Galilee."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### The Third Lesson

*"Jesus Appears to the Emmaus Disciples"*

*Luke 24:13-35*

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

### **Hymn**

CW 719 "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***

**The Fourth Lesson**

**“Jesus Appears to His Disciples”  
*John 20 and Luke 24 – select verses***

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!" But they were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

**Hymn**

*CW 142 "Come, You Faithful, Raise The Strain"*

**Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought his Israel Into joy from sadness.  
See the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison  
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has risen.**

**All the winter of our sins, Long and dark, is flying  
From his light, to whom we give Laud and praise undying.  
Neither could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark portal  
Nor the watchers nor the seal Hold him as a mortal.**

**But today among his own Christ appeared, bestowing  
Blessed peace, which evermore Passes human knowing.  
Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought his Israel Into joy from sadness.**

## The Fifth Lesson

“Our Response to Jesus’ Resurrection”

*Romans 6:1-14*

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

## Hymn

CW 147:2,4 “Like The Golden Sun Ascending”

**Thanks to you, O Christ victorious!  
Thanks to you, O Lord of Life!  
Death has now no power o'er us,  
You have conquered in the strife.  
Thanks because you did arise  
And have opened paradise!  
None can fully sing the glory  
Of the resurrection story.**

**Grant me grace, O blessed Savior,  
And your Holy Spirit send  
That my life and my behavior  
May be pleasing to the end,  
That I may not fall again  
Into death's grim pit and pain,  
Whence by grace you have retrieved me  
And from which you have relieved me.**



**The Sixth Lesson**  
“Jesus’ Resurrection is our Victory”  
*1 Corinthians 15 – select verses*

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also. . . Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. . . And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. . . For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”  
“Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give Yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

## Hymn

CW 162 "He Is Arisen! Glorious Word"

**He is arisen! Glorious Word!  
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;  
The gates of heav'n are open.  
My Jesus did triumphant die,  
And Satan's arrows broken lie,  
Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.  
Oh, hear What cheer!  
Christ victorious, Rising glorious,  
Life is giving.  
He was dead, but now is living!**

## Prayer

M: Heavenly Father, God of grace, you have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

**C: Christ is risen!**

M: For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

**C: He is risen indeed!**

M: He was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification.

**C: Alleluia!**

M: We marvel at the love you showed by your willingness to sacrifice your Son to pay for our sins; we bow down in adoration at your mighty power, which raised him from the dead.

**C: We praise you for sending the true Life and Light into the world.**

M: Lord Jesus, God of grace, you have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by your victory over sin, death, and the grave.

**C: You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.**

M: With the Church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have crushed Satan's head and have removed our guilt.

**C: You are risen!**

M: Dear Savior, we who are weary and burdened come to you for rest, knowing that because of your perfect redemption there is now no condemnation for us.

**C: You are risen indeed!**

M: Take away our doubts and fears, and daily renew in us the joy of our salvation.

**C: Alleluia!**

M: Holy Spirit, God of grace, you have called us by the gospel and brought us to saving faith in our risen Lord.

**C: We glorify you for opening our eyes to see the light of life.**

M: Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

**C: He is risen!**

M: As we journey through life, make us yearn for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ.

**C: He is risen indeed!**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Work through us as we proclaim the saving message of the crucified and risen Jesus near and far, so that many others may hear your call, obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, and join us before the throne of our God and of the Lamb.

**C: Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia! Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen**

### The Seventh Lesson

Our Confession of Hope

*1 Thessalonians 4:14-17*

**We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.**

## **Easter Benediction**

**"I Know that My Redeemer Lives" (CW 152)**

**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.**

*Pastor: The Living Lord bless you and keep you*

**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.**

*Pastor: The Living Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.*

**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.**

*Pastor: The Living Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.*

**He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death.  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring my 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!"**

## Announcements

### **Church Cleaners:**

Apr.16 – Luke // Apr. 23 – Timothy

### DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

<b>Su (9)</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> 9:00 am 10:30 am	<b>Sunrise Easter Service (with Communion)</b> Easter Breakfast <b>Easter Song Service</b>
Tu (10)	4:30 pm	Confirmation (D)
Th (13)	6:30 pm	Confirmation (W)
Fr (14)	3:00 pm 6:00 pm	Women's Bible Study: Hebrews Illumine at St. Paul's
<b>Su (16)</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b> 11:45 am <b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Sunday School and Bible Class</b> <b>Worship with Communion</b> Coffee Hour <b>Worship &amp; Communion in Poltimore</b>
<i>Pastor will be at a Conference in Toronto from April 17-19</i>		
Th (20)	6:30 pm	Confirmation (W)
Fr (21)	3:00 pm 6:00 pm	Women's Bible Study: Hebrews Illumine at St. Paul's
<b>Su (23)</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b> 11:45 am	<b>Sunday School and Bible Class</b> <b>Worship with Communion</b> Coffee Hour



## **Divine Word**

### **Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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