



Sunday, April 5, 2026

The Meaning of Easter in Lessons and Songs

Service Theme

WHAT IS EASTER ALL ABOUT?

Using a series of lessons and hymns, let us explore the meaning, purpose, and hope Christ's resurrection has for us.



**Divine Word
Evangelical Lutheran Church**
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Invocation & Greeting

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

This is the day the LORD has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

Opening Hymn

438 "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 you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, ever living friend,

**Fill our hearts with joy and trust as we meditate on the
glory of your resurrection.**

May your gospel today speak peace, comfort and forgiveness to our souls.

Give us, by the power of your resurrection, the strength to overcome every evil and walk with you in true righteousness. Amen.

The Children Explain Jesus' Work

Mario: On Christmas Day, God sent Jesus as a little baby, to begin doing the work of saving the whole world and us from sin.

All: (John 3:16) For God so loved the World, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Emily: Jesus grew up perfectly. He kept every law of God that we never could. He suffered temptation and never once sinned. He did all of that for us!

Emily: In 2 Corinthians 5:21 Paul tells us, God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Little children:

Jesus came to earth for me.
He obeyed God perfectly
Jesus died for all my sins.
He rose so I can live with him!

Mario: Finally, Jesus redeemed us when he died on the cross. He proved that he had conquered sin and death when he rose again on Easter Morning!

Mario: 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 says: 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.

Emily: We have that victory because of God's great love for us, his amazing grace.

Emily: We read in Romans 3:23: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Mario: Because of that great love and salvation, we want to share the gospel with everyone. This Easter Morning we sing our praises to our amazing God and Saviour!

All Children: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
(*Little Ones Sing Praise p. 94*)

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Ev'ry child in ev'ry land,
Jesus holds them in His hand.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus died for all the children,
All the children of the world.
Ev'ry child in ev'ry land,
Jesus holds them in His hand.
Jesus died for all the children of the world.

Jesus rose for all the children,
All the children of the world.
Ev'ry child in ev'ry land,
Jesus holds them in His hand.
Jesus rose for all the children of the world.

Jesus cares for all the children,
All the children of the world.
Ev'ry child in ev'ry land,
Jesus holds them in His hand.
Jesus cares for all the children of the world.

Children's Hymn

CW 447 "Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed!"

*(Emily and Maria will sing the verses as a solo.
All Children will join on the refrain)*

How can it be, the One who died
Has borne our sin through sacrifice
To conquer every sting of death
Sing, sing hallelujah

For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes
Alive He stands, their friend and king
Christ, Christ, He is risen

**Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!
Oh, sing hallelujah**

**Join the chorist' sing with the redeemed
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed**

Where doubt and darkness once had been
They saw Him and their hearts believed
But blessed are those who have not seen
Yet, sing hallelujah

Once bound by fear now bold in faith
They preached the truth and power of grace
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life, life everlasting

**Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!
Oh, sing hallelujah**

**Join the chorist' sing with the redeemed
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed**

The power that raised Him from the grave
Now works in us to powerfully save
He frees our hearts to live His grace
Go tell of His goodness

**Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!
Oh, sing hallelujah
Join the chorist' sing with the redeemed
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!**

Part One

Easter is about Jesus' Empty Tomb
Mark 16:2-6 EHV

²Very early on the first day of the week, at sunrise, they went to the tomb. ³They were saying to each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb for us?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶He said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

Hymn Response

CW 456:1-3, 9 "O Sons and Daughters of the King

(Pastor)

O sons and daughters of the King,
whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,
today the grave has lost its sting!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

(Women)

**That Easter morn, at break of day,
the faithful women went their way
to seek the tomb where Jesus lay.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

(Men)

**An angel bade their sorrow flee,
for thus he spoke unto the three,
“Your Lord will go to Galilee.”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

(All)

**On this most holy day of days
to God your hearts and voices raise
in laud and jubilee and praise.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Part Two

Easter is about the Forgiveness of Sins
1 Corinthians 15:17-20 & Romans 4:25 EHV

¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then it also follows that those who fell asleep in Christ perished. ¹⁹ If our hope in Christ applies only to this life, we are the most pitiful people of all. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

²⁵ He was handed over to death because of our trespasses and was raised to life because of our justification.

Hymn Response

CW 469:1,3-4 “Welcome, Happy Morning”

**“Welcome, happy morning!” age to age shall say;
“Hell today is vanquished; is won today!”
Lo, the dead is living, forevermore!
Him, their true Creator, his works adore
“Welcome, happy morning!” Age to age shall say;
“Hell to
day is vanquished; Heav’n is won today!”**

**Source of all things living, you came down to die,
plumbed the depths of hell to raise us up on high.
Come, then, true and faithful, come, fulfill your word;
this is your third morning—rise, O buried Lord.
“Welcome, happy morning!” Age to age shall say;
“Hell today is vanquished; Heav’n is won today!”**

**Free the souls long prisoned, bound with Satan’s chain;
all that now is fallen raise to life again.**

**Show your face in brightness; shine in ev’ry land
as in Eden’s garden when the world began.**

**“Welcome, happy morning!” Age to age shall say;
“Hell today is vanquished; Heav’n is won today!”**

Part Three

Easter is about the End of Fear

Matthew 28:1-10 EHV

¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.’ See, I have told you!” ⁸ They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

Hymn Response

CW 451 "See What a Morning"

**See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem:
Folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light,
As the Angels announce, "Christ is risen"**

**See God's salvation plan,
Wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

**See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb.
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name:
"It's the Master, the Lord, raised to life again!"
The voice that spans the years,
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
Will sound 'til He appears,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

**One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.
Honor and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with power and authority!
And we are raised with Him:
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered.
And we shall reign with Him
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

Part Four

Easter is about the Sorrow Turned into Joy

John 20:10-18 EHV

¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood outside facing the tomb, weeping. As she wept, she bent over, looking into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels in white clothes sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She told them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ After she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not know it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?” Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you carried him off, tell me where you laid him, and I will get him.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and replied in Aramaic, “*Rabboni!*” (which means, “Teacher”). ¹⁷ Jesus told her, “Do not continue to cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father—to my God and your God.’ ” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” She also told them the things he said to her.



1 His bat - tle end - ed there, death was o - ver - come.
 2 Dread pow'rs of death and sin had him in their hold.
 3 Dead in the grave he lay, mourned by ev - 'ry friend.
 4 He burst the chains of sin, o - pened death's dark jail.



Je - sus, a - live a - gain, wore the vic - tor's crown.
 When Je - sus rose a - gain all their plans were foiled.
 Those dark and fear - ful days then did reach their end.
 God filled him with new life, life that could not fail.



Clear - ly sin had failed; Good - ness had pre - vailed.
 Je - sus lived a - gain, Tri - umphed o - ver sin.
 God raised him to life, Vic - tor in the strife.
 Right be - fore their eyes Je - sus did a - rise.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Part Five

Easter is about Living a New Life

Romans 6:1-14 EHV

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase? ² Absolutely not! We died to sin. How can we go on living in it any longer? ³ Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

⁴We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection.

⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him, to make our sinful body powerless, so that we would not continue to serve sin. ⁷For the person who has died has been declared free from sin. ⁸And since we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he will never die again. Death no longer has control over him. ¹⁰For the death he died, he died to sin once and for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way also consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹²Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its desires. ¹³Do not offer the members of your body to sin as tools of unrighteousness. Instead, offer yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and offer the members of your body to God as tools of righteousness. ¹⁴Indeed, sin will not continue to control you, because you are not under law but under grace.

Hymn Response

CW 687 "If Then You Have Been Raised with Christ"

**If then you have been raised with Christ,
look not to earthly things,
for Christ's own death has saved your life
from sin and death's sharp sting.
Set hearts and minds on things above,
on Christ who reigns on high.
In Christ your life will be revealed
and with him you will rise.**

**As chosen ones, beloved by God,
put on the clothes of grace:
compassion, kindness, patience, love,
forgiveness in Christ's name.
And may your hearts be filled with peace,
in perfect harmony.
Be thankful as Christ's word takes root;
in him you are set free.**

**With gratitude for all good gifts
sing psalms and hymns and songs.
In word or deed, do ev'rything
in Christ, whose name is strong.
All glory to the Trinity:
the Father and the Son,
and glory to the Spirit blest.
All praise the Three in One!**

Part Six

Easter is about Our Resurrection Hope
1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 & John 11:25-26 EHV

¹⁴ Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. ¹⁵ In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in me will never perish. Do you believe this?"

Hymn Response

CW 441:1-2,7-8 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives

**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 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!"**

Part Seven

Easter is about Living with God forever in Paradise
Revelation 21:1-8; 22:20-21 EHV

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, because the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And the sea no longer existed. ²And I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

³And from the throne I heard a loud voice that said, "Look! God's dwelling is with people. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain, because the former things have passed away."

⁵The one who was seated on the throne said to me, “Look, I am making everything new!” He also said, “Write, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶And he said to me: It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

To anyone who is thirsty, I will give freely from the spring of the water of life.

⁷The one who is victorious will inherit these things. I will be his God, and he will be my son.

⁸But those who are cowardly, unbelieving, detestable, murderers, adulterers, sorcerers, idolaters, and all the will have their share in the lake burning with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

²⁰The one who testifies about these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints. Amen.

Hymn Response

CW 881 “Sing with All the Saints in Glory”

**Sing with all the saints in glory,
sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story,
to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking;
soon the storms of time shall cease;
in God’s likeness we awaken,
knowing everlasting peace.
Oh, what glory, far exceeding
all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading
never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it;
there on high our welcome waits.
Ev’ry humble spirit shares it,
Christ has passed th’ eternal gates.**

**Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices:
Jesus lives who once was dead.
Shout with joy, O deathless voices!
Child of God, lift up your head!
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders
crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
when, amid earth's closing thunders,
saints shall stand before the throne!**

Prayer

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

Christ is risen!

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

He is risen indeed!

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

Alleluia!

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.

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

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

You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.

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

You are risen!

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.

You are risen indeed!

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

Alleluia!

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

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

Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

He is risen!

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

He is risen indeed!

Offertory prayer and special intercession.

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.

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 Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you
The LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious
to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace

Amen.

Hymn Response

CW 510 "In Christ Alone"

**In Christ alone my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone—who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Announcements

Church Cleaners

April 12 – Barnabas / April 19 – Luke

Easter Flowers

You are encouraged to take your plants home after Easter Worship.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (5) 8:00 am Easter Sunrise (with Communion)
9:00 am Easter Breakfast
10:30 am Easter Worship
3:00 pm Easter at Our Shepherd (Poltimore)

Pastor will be out of town from April 7 - 11

Su (12) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:45 am Coffee Hour

Tu (14) 7:00 pm Communicating Christ Class

Fr (17) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Su (19) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study
10:30 am Worship (with Communion)
11:45 am Coffee Hour
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore
4:00 pm Youth Confirmation in Poltimore