

**Christ has been raised
from the dead,
the first fruits of those
who have died.**

1 Corinthians 15:20, NRSV

April 21, 2019

Alleluia!

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We're so glad you're here!

- Restrooms are down the hallways on either side of the worship space.
- For those with young children:
 - Feel free to grab a "quiet bag" as you walk in (by the back-left door of the worship space).
 - If your young ones get restless, feel free to use our Family Room.
 - Don't hesitate to send your child up for the Children's Message—it's for everyone!
- One of our ushers, greeters, or other members will be happy to answer your questions!

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

The liturgical color¹ for Easter Sunday is white, which is the color of joy, perfection, and purity. It also points our eyes to the glory of heaven, where all of those things will be enjoyed by believers for all eternity.

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Hymns can be found in the red hymnals in the pew racks, *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*. © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719903

"He's Risen, He's Risen." Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719903

"This Joyful Eastertide." Text from Crowley Carol Book. A.R. Mowbray & Co. LTD. London England.

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¹ The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole and the piece of cloth hanging from the pulpit.

Welcome to the most important day of the year! Yes, Easter Sunday is *that* important! We have a song that says, “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” but sometimes I think that song was written for the wrong season. When we look at birthdays or weddings or graduations, they all pale in comparison to the joy and glory of Easter Sunday. That’s not just something I say because I like spring weather; it’s something God says. In 1 Corinthians 15:17, God says through a pastor named Paul, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” Everything in this life (and in eternal life, for that matter) hinges on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead.



**Alleluia!
He is alive!**

I don’t need more evidence than that to show the importance of Easter. But God gives us more. We can look back through history to see how Easter became the focal point of worship for Christians. The Scriptures tell us that it was on the morning of the first day of the week that Jesus’ empty tomb was discovered. The risen Lord also appeared to various groups of his disciples on that same day. First-century Christians, some of whom were Jesus’ own disciples, continued to gather for worship on Sunday, the first day of the week, in remembrance of the Resurrection (John 20:26; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2).

By the second century, the feast of Easter had become an annual commemoration. The festival day was soon preceded by a time of fasting and preparation for the celebration (what we call Lent). Easter is also followed by a fifty-day season of rejoicing which concludes with Pentecost. Our whole life of worship centers on Easter Sunday.

But what really makes Easter important is what it accomplishes for us. This isn’t a celebration void of relevant meaning. When we celebrate the resurrection of Christ from the dead, we also celebrate the fact that Jesus won salvation for those who were dead in sins. Jesus died and rose to pay for the sins of every single person in the entire world (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:19). Yes, Jesus died and rose for you! That is the most joyful thing you can ever hear!

So, again, welcome. Welcome to the most important and most joyful day of the year. I pray that your day is filled with fellowship, laughter, and, yes, good food. But I also pray that what happened on this day 2000 years ago influences your life so that you live every day in joy, peace, and hope. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Lucas Proeber

Easter Morning Worship

Congregational responses and singing are printed in **Bold**.

OPENING HYMN

Alleluia! Jesus Lives | 153

**Alleluia! Jesus lives! He is now the living one;
From the gloomy house of death Forth the conqueror has gone,
Bright forerunner to the skies Of his people, yet to rise.**

**Jesus lives! Let all rejoice; Praise him, ransomed ones of earth.
Praise him in a nobler song, Cherubim of heav'nly birth.
Praise the Victor-King, whose sway Sin and death and hell obey.**

**Jesus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and frequent sigh?
He who died our Brother here Lives our Brother still on high,
Lives forever to bestow Blessings on his Church below.**

**Jesus lives! And thus, my soul, Life is yours eternally;
Joined to him, your living head, Where he is, you too shall be;
You with him at his right hand Victor over death shall stand.**

Please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister (M): Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation (C): He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

M: In the name of the Father who raised the Son from the dead.

C: Alleluia!

M: In the name of the Son who rose triumphant from the grave
and has conquered sin and death for us.

C: Alleluia!

M: In the name of the Holy Spirit who has brought us to believe
and to share in Christ's victory.

C: Alleluia! Amen!

This ancient greeting is used around the world as a simple way to share the truth of Christ's resurrection.



RESPONSIVE READING

Selected verses from Psalm 118

M: The Lord is my strength and my song;

C: He has become my salvation.

M: The LORD's right hand is lifted high;
C: The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!
M: I will not die but live,
C: And will proclaim what the LORD has done.
M: I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
C: You have become my salvation.
M: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;
C: The LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
M: This is the day the LORD has made;
C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
M: Christ is risen!
C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen!

Even in the Psalms (some of the most ancient books of the Bible), we find evidence of belief in the resurrection.

Be seated.

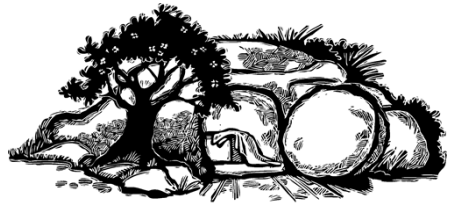
HYMN

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing | 141 (1,4,5)

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from his piercé side. Alleluia!**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!**

**Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days,
Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!**



The Lord is Risen!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate of eternal life. Grant that we who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in the newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

C: Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The children are invited to come forward for an object lesson.

SONG BY CHOIR - *Rejoice My Heart*

Instead of one longer sermon, there will be a shorter devotion on each of the readings today.

~ PART 1 ~

REMEMBER WHAT JESUS' RESURRECTION MEANS FOR YOUR ETERNITY

READING

Job 19:23-27

Thousands of years before Christ, Job knew the reality of the resurrection.

²³"Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, ²⁴that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! ²⁵I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. ²⁶And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; ²⁷I myself will see him with my own eyes-- I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" (NIV84®)

DEVOTION

Please stand for the hymn.

HYMN

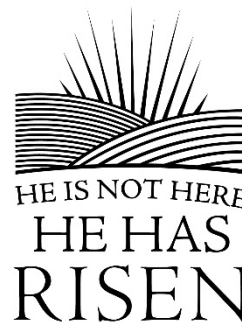
He's Risen, He's Risen | 143 (1,4,5)

**He's risen, he's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the incarnate Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain the praises prolong.**

**Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.**

**Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
Who now sits in glory and ever shall reign.**

Be seated.



~ PART 2 ~
**REMEMBER WHAT JESUS' RESURRECTION
MEANS FOR THIS LIFE**

READING

1 Corinthians 15: 12-20

A few decades after the resurrection, the apostle Paul affirms the reality of the resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15 is 58 verses long, all centering in on Christ's resurrection. What does the fact Jesus rose mean to you today?

¹² 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? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from

the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (NIV84®)

DEVOTION

SONG BY CONTEMPORARY CHOIR

He Is Risen



~ PART 3 ~
**REMEMBER WHAT JESUS SAYS
ABOUT HIS RESURRECTION**



Please stand.

READING

Luke 24:1-12

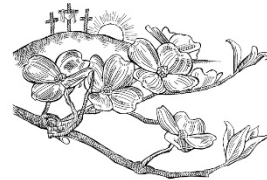
On the day of the resurrection, women are the first to witness its reality.

¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

Along with this section of Luke 24, Matthew 28, Mark 16, and John 20 all record the resurrection from different vantage points. What is comforting in knowing that these four accounts agree?

⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. (NIV84®)
Be seated.



DEVOTION

HYMN

I Know that My Redeemer Lives | 152 (1-8)

***ALL: 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!***

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

***Men: 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.***

Expanding on the words of Job 19, we join in this song of joyful comfort. This week, pick one verse from this hymn to memorize so that you have it ready to go for those tough times.

Women: 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.

Men: 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.

Women: 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.

ALL: 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.

Please stand for the final verse.

ALL: 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!"



CONFESSIO OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

THANK OFFERING

St. Paul's members offer their first and their best to their Savior in order to support the sharing of the Gospel through our church and our worldwide church body, the WELS. Our guests do not need to feel obligated to participate. We ask that everyone, guests and members, sign the Friendship Register which will be passed out during the offering.

If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



SONG BY CHOIR

Christ Has Arisen

Please stand.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: **Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: **Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory.

C: **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents and our treasures.

C: **Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

*An Easter
Prayer*



Special Prayers and intercession may follow.

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation.
With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: **Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

THE 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.**

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace!

C: *(sung)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

**This joyful Eastertide
Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
Has sprung to life this morrow.
Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now is Christ arisen!**



This Joyful Eastertide | 160

This hymn poetically pieces together various verses from 1 Corinthians 15 to drive home the wonderful truth: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Death's flood has lost its chill
Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver.
Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now is Christ arisen!

My flesh in hope shall rest
And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number.
Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now is Christ arisen!



Our Regular Sunday Schedule

Worship at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study ~ 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sunday School ~ 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Monday Night Worship at 6:30 p.m.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST

April 21 | 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Our leadership team is serving breakfast in the gym this morning, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. We are taking a freewill offering at the meal to help purchase bibles for the church in a new translation, the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV).

THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS

We thank all who bought flowers to decorate the church for our Easter celebration. Purchased plants can be picked up after the last service today or later this week.

This translation was completed by a group of Lutheran pastors and professors and will be available in July. For more info visit online.nph.net/ehv.

SCHEDULE YOUR PHOTO SESSION

We are putting together a new membership directory. Professional portraits will be taken June 5-8 & 12-15. In addition to a directory, you will receive a free 8X10 portrait. There is no cost to you unless you choose to purchase additional photos. There is a link on our website, so you can sign up online. In-person sign-ups will take place next Sunday, April 28, after worship.

LOOK FOR OUR BOOTH AT CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

April 27

On Saturday, we will have an activity booth at the Children's Festival. This family event is held annually at the Lincoln High School field house. This year's theme is birthday parties. Stop by and encourage our volunteers.

STUDY THE BOOK OF EXODUS

April 24 | 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Our Bible Book Group is digging deep into the book of Exodus. Come explore the account of God freeing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and establishing a covenant relationship with them. This study meets in the Resource Center on Wednesdays.

WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT THE BOOK OF LUKE?

April 23 | 9:45-11:45 a.m.

Among other things, Luke was a doctor by trade and uses a lot of medical terms in his account. On Tuesday mornings, you can take a topical look at other aspects of this Gospel including the songs, the culture, its inclusion to women, the parables, and more. This eight-lesson study for women meets in the Resource Center.

LOCAL WALK FOR LIFE

May 11

The local pregnancy resource center, First Choice, is holding their Walk for Life, a 6K run/walk at Lake Wazeecha, on Saturday, May 11 (the day before Mother's Day). The entry donation is \$50, and activities include a raffle, games, pig roast, concessions, and music. For more information visit www.firstchoiceprc.org/walkforlife.

VOTERS' MEETING THIS MONDAY

April 22 | 6:30 p.m.

We are meeting this Monday to make decisions on staffing and calls for the next fiscal/school year. Information on this matter can be found in your mail slots.

SUPPORTING OUR SYNOD

We pass on a percentage of our offering to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to support mission work, the training of called workers, and other ministry that we cannot accomplish on our own as a congregation. From January through March, our gifts totaled \$6,450.63.

THANK YOU THRIVENT & ITS MEMBERS

This month, we received \$928 through the Thrivent Choice. If you have a Thrivent product, please ask whether you can participate in this charitable program.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last week's attendance: 273

Year-to-date average attendance: 234

From July 1, 2018 to April 12, 2019

Actual gifts to ministry: \$ 783,598

Actual cost of ministry: \$ 828,608

Mortgage Balance \$ 1,522,990

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 27 St. Paul's Booth at Children's Festival

May 11 Walk form Life at Lake Wazeecha

May 12 Mother's Day

May 19 Confirmation Sunday

June 5 Church Directory Photos



Alleluia!
He is alive!

CALENDAR

April 21-29

SUNDAY	7:00 AM	Easter Sunday Worship
	8:00 AM	Easter Breakfast in the gum
	9:30 AM	Easter Sunday Worship
MONDAY	6:30 PM	Voters' Meeting
TUESDAY	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
	7:00 PM	Contemporary Choir Practice in the balcony
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	1:00 PM	Newsletter Assembly
	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice in the balcony
SATURDAY	9:00 AM	St. Paul's Booth at Children's Festival
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades K-5)
	10:30 AM	Worship
	1:00 PM	Budgeting Meeting in the Bible Study Room
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball in the gym
MONDAY	6:30 PM	Worship





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