

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

APRIL 9, 2023

WELCOME TO THE PROMISED LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

AS WE GATHER

Finally! At long last! We made it! Easter Sunday has arrived, and we gather this morning to sing the praises of Him who was crucified and now bursts forth from death's grave! As the children of Israel wandered through the wilderness for forty years, they held fast to the hope that the land flowing with milk and honey was waiting for them. As we have journeyed through the season of Lent over the last forty days, we have anticipated the joy that we share together this Easter Day. We have also learned to look ahead, all the way to the promised treasure of life everlasting in heavenly glory. Today's feasting with our risen Savior gives us a preview of what awaits us in eternal life. And on that glorious coming day, we know what we will say: Finally! At long last! We made it!

The PRESERVICE MUSIC AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (*LSB* 465)

INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
P Christ has risen from the dead.
C **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,**

- P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
C **He has put all things under His feet.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Based on Philippians 2:1–11*

P Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another. With humble hearts, let us pray together:

C **Lord Jesus, the Father’s only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**

P Your Father led His people of old to the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey. You also have promised us the gift of unending life, which we sinners do not deserve.

C **Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—**

P to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

C **With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

P Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. On this very day He conquered sin and death, opening for us the way to life everlasting in the promised land of heaven. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

A HYMN “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (*LSB* 457)

A PRAYER

P 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.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 3:1–10

P The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, the third chapter.

¹Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then He said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶And He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 118:19–24, 27a, 28–29

P Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

C **This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.**

P I thank You that You have answered me and have become my salvation.

C **The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.**

P This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

C **This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.

C **You are my God, and I will give thanks to You; You are my God; I will extol You.**

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

C **for His steadfast love endures forever! 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.**

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:19–28

P The Epistle is from First Corinthians, the fifteenth chapter.

¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed

is death. ²⁷For “God has put all things in subjection under His feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that He is excepted who put all things in subjection under Him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to Him who put all things in subjection under Him, that God may be all in all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“An Easter Chant”

THE VERSE (*Spoken by all*)

John 6:68

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 16:1–8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. ⁷But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.” ⁸And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment

had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

THE SERMON HYMN “Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!” (*LSB* 474)

SERMON (During the sermon, children who are ages 3 through grade 2 are invited to participate in KIDZ Time. Children can make their way to the back of the sanctuary where the KIDZ Time teacher is waiting. The children will return to the service following the sermon.)

OFFERING Bell Choir “All Creatures of Our God and King: Lasst Uns Erffeuern” (Please sign the burgundy Friendship booklet and pass it to other people sitting in your pew. When completed, pass it back to the center aisle and be sure to greet the people next to you! Those sitting by the center aisle: please tear off the completed sheet and place it on the pew. Thank you!)

A HYMN: “The Hymn of Heaven” (Phil Wickham)

Verse 1

How I long to breathe the air of Heaven
Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets
To look upon the one who bled to save me
And walk with Him for all eternity

Chorus 1

There will be a day
When all will bow before Him
There will be a day
When death will be no more
Standing face to face
With He who died and rose again
Holy holy is the Lord

Verse 2

And ev'ry prayer we prayed in desperation

The songs of faith
We sang through doubt and fear
In the end we'll see that it was worth it
When He returns to wipe away our tears (Chorus)

Verse 3

And on that Day, we join the resurrection
And stand beside the heroes of the faith
With one voice a thousand generations
Sing worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Forever He shall reign

Chorus 2

So let it be today
We shout the hymn of Heaven
With angels and the Saints
We raise a mighty roar
Glory to our God
Who gave us life beyond the grave
Holy holy is the Lord
Holy holy is the Lord
Holy holy is the Lord

CCLI Song # 7168994 Bill Johnson | Brian Johnson | Chris Davenport | Phil Wickham
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THE PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank
You that You raised Your Son from death's grave so that
life everlasting may be given to us through faith in Him.
- C **Grant that the promised treasures of Your Word remind
us of the inheritance we have received.**
- P Lead us to a firm reliance upon our risen Savior, trusting
that He is victorious over our greatest enemies of sin, death,
and the power of the devil.

- C Help us to know the power of His resurrection, sharing together the joy of His Easter triumph.**
- P Lord Jesus, grant that the message of that first Easter Day change hearts and lives on this day when we celebrate Your victory over death and the grave. Give strength and peace to those who grieve the death of those they love.
- C Help them to know that You are preparing a family reunion in heaven for all who trust in You.**
- P As You now reign with the Father at His right hand, You govern all the peoples and nations of the world, including the country where we live. We are strangers in this land that is not our own, so give us hearts that anticipate the day You will welcome us into eternal life,
- C gathering us and all Your people into the promised land, where we will dwell with You forever.**
- P Holy Spirit, You bring the reality of Jesus' resurrection into our lives today, uniting with Christ those who have been baptized into His name.
- C Bless us through any joy or triumph, defeat or difficulty we may face.**
- P We lift up before You ourselves, our families, our community, and our family in Christ in this congregation, [*especially . . .*]. Holy Spirit, give us joy in knowing the fellowship of the communion of saints, the peace of sins forgiven, the comfort of the resurrection, and the sure and certain hope of life everlasting with You in the promised land of heaven.
- C All glory, honor, and praise belongs to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (*LSB* 461 Choir will sing vs.4)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & BLESSING FOR ONLINE WORSHIPPERS

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has guaranteed for us the promised land of everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB, p. 208

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your

blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB, p. 210

DISTRIBUTION (We will be having a continuous flow communion.)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Living Hope” (Phil Wickham)

Verse 1

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 2

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Chorus

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope (2 Xs)

Verse 3

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
(REPEAT)
Jesus Yours is the victory (*Chorus 2 Xs*)

Ending

Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope

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Bell Choir

“Abiding Joy”

A POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: “Thine is the Glory”
(Choir)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray. O God the Father, who in love and mercy sent
Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that
You have given us pardon and peace in this Supper. Deepen
our trust in Your Son as we walk by faith and hope
throughout our days of pilgrimage,
- C** **looking forward to our inheritance of the heavenly
promised land;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

EASTER ACCLAMATION

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

BENEDICTION

P 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 T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN “The Day of Resurrection” (LSB478)

Events of the Week: April 10 – April 16, 2023

Monday	No Monday Service
Tuesday	6:30 p.m. Discovery Class
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Darrell’s Bible Class
Friday	Pastor’s Day off
Saturday	8:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast
Sunday	8:00 a.m. Gizmo on FB
	8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
	9:30 a.m. Worship
	11:00 a.m. Bible study

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: March 26, 2023

General Fund	\$10,802.25
Building Fund	\$75.00
Tessaro Ministry	\$125.00
Bibles- Easter Outreach	\$40.00
Rwanda Mothers	\$1550.00
TOTAL	\$12,592.25

Those Who Serve Today April. 9th.

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Pastor Schaeffer

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Bryan Ensing / Craig Popma

Ushers: Urbanski Family / Jim McKay

Video/Sound/Recording: Nathan Urbanski, John, and Marjie Weiss

April Altar Guild: Deb, Kelsey, and Lynelle Butler

Those Who are Serving Next Week: April 16th.

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Cindy McAuliffe

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Craig Popma / Jerry Talen

Ushers: Orlin Bowman / Caleb Butler/ Craig Popma

Video/Sound/Recording: Nathan Urbanski, John, and Marjie Weiss

April Altar Guild: Deb, Kelsey, and Lynelle Butler

Announcements

The Word Works: Building an Ethic of Bible Reading: At the Michigan District Theological Conference 2023 held at Our Savior, Lansing on February 8, 2023. We will watch three presentations from that conference during our Sunday morning Bible study time beginning April 30.

- **April 30:** From Manuscripts to Modern Translations – Rev. Dr. Jeffrey J. Kloha
- **May 7:** Bible Reading & Biblical Expertise: Lessons from Psychology & Neuroscience – Dr. Thad A. Polk
- **May 14:** Do I Have to Read the Old Testament Too? – Rev. Dr. Mark R. Hoehner

Dorcas Society April Gathering: We invite all women of our congregation to gather on Thursday April 13 at 1:30 in the Gathering Room. We will take a nostalgic look into the history of our congregation as we look at the many photographs that are part of our archives. You may find photographs of yourself, family members, and friends. You may also be able to help identify the individuals in the photographs as many photographs do not list the names of the people in them. So come and enjoy a few hours of remembering and celebrating the history of St James. Please contact Rachel Palmer (616-883-6949), palmerrm@comcast.net with questions or if you need a ride.

WML Spring Plant Sale: If you love plants and flowers what a better way to help support our only Lutheran High School in West Michigan. All selections are in 10” plastic hanging baskets with wire hangers. The deadline for all orders is Friday, April 28, 2023. For Order forms and more information, pick up a brochure on the table in the lobby..

The EGGS-traordinary Easter Carnival: The carnival is next Saturday, April 15, 2023. **Event Volunteers** should pick up a T-shirt today. It is not too late to volunteer! This EGGS-tra Special Event will be a Basket Full of Fun Including: An EGGS–ceptional EGG Hunt, EGGS-citing Games & Activities, EGGS-cellent Crafts, & the EGGS-trodinary Account of Jesus’ Resurrection from the Dead! We hope you will come to this FREE outdoor event between 1:00-3:00. **B.Y.O.B. – Bring Your Own Basket**

Knit / Crocheted Together in Love: Please join us on Sunday April 16, 2023 after church from 10:45am to 1:00pm. Anyone ages 13 and up who is interested in learning the basics of knitting / Crocheting to Advanced. Make sure you bring a snack or lunch for yourself, knitting needles or crochet hooks and yarn if you have some! No need to sign up just join the group.

A Statement on Holy Communion

We rejoice in the celebration of the LORD'S Supper as the Lord Jesus comes to us in a very personal manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, *"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) It is out of love and care for every individual that comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask those who are not instructed in the faith and/or doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to refrain from attending the Lord's Supper.

Members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations, who:

- Repent of their sin;
- Believe in Jesus as their Savior;
- Trust that they are receiving, not only bread and wine, but also the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of their sins; and
- Intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as forgiven sinners resisting the devil, saying no to sinful desires, and walking in the newness of life;

are invited to partake of this Holy Meal with us. We request that ALL guests who desire to commune, kindly speak to the Pastor before the service.

If you prefer to come forward for a blessing at the time of Holy Communion, please do so. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest so that Pastor knows you want to receive a blessing.

NOTE: We provide gluten-free communion host and non-alcohol grape juice. Just let Pastor and/or the assistants know when you come for Holy Communion.