

Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

The Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Day

March 31, 2024

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD



30

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

GATHERING

CHORAL FANFARE

PRELUDE

*Stand
The congregation turns to face the processional cross.*

GATHERING HYMN

***Jesus Christ is Risen Today* LBW 151**

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo- ple of God. Pow- er and rich- es and wis- dom and



strength, and hon- or and bless- ing and glo- ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sit

WORD**FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9****A:** A Reading from Isaiah:

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

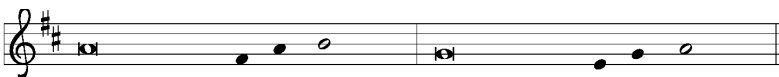
⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save
us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

A: The word of the Lord.**C:** Thanks be to God.**PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24***The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*

This is the day that the LORD has made;



let us re-joice and be glad in it.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.

- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.
- ²**Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."**
- ¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the
righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**
- ¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"
- ¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD. R**
- ¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.
- ¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**
- ²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."
- ²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation. R**
- ²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- ²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**A:** A Reading from First Corinthians:

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

A: The word of the Lord.**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand
The Gospel is carried into the midst of the people as a reminder that Christ is present among us.
Please face the processional cross.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: Christ our paschal lamb has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the feast.

C: **Repeat the Alleluias**

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 over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus' body. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Sit
CHILDRENS SERMONAnita Bair
SERMONPastor Amme

Stand
HYMN OF THE DAY
The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done.....LBW 135

NICENE CREED

**☩: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped
and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

After each petition:

P: God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: **Amen**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you.

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

ANTHEM

Easter Carol Winnagene Hatch

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung



C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER**A**: Let us pray:**C**: **Risen One,**

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

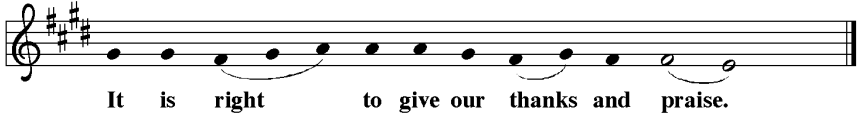
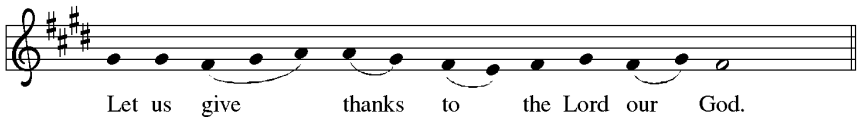
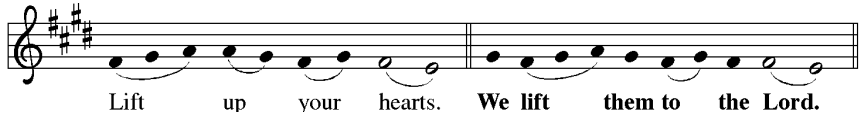
May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING**PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter, and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us
 in the breaking of the bread.
 Come and eat at God's table.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
The communicant may say: Amen

COMMUNION HYMN

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing..... LBW 210

ANTHEM

Good Christians All, Rejoice!Anna Laura Page

Stand

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

A: Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen

As the cross processes to the rear of the nave, the assembly turns to follow.

SENDING HYMN

***Christ is Risen! Alleluia!*..... LBW 131**

DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Susan Christ, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker; **Lay Assistant:** Anita Bair; **Communion Assistant:** Sandy Ream; **Acolyte/Crucifer:** Alyx Taylor; **Torchbearers:** Brennen Hess, Doriann Morris; **Bannerbearer:** Dylan Sherman
Altar Guild: Rita Strickler, Betty Fenstermacher
Greeters/Communion Presenters: Doris Butt, Kim Brofee; **Cantor:** Carol Waltz; **Flower Delivery:** Charles Luppert

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dorothy Artman by her daughters Emily Bausinger, Connie Hess and families.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Nathan Rudio’s 16th birthday, March 31st, with love from Grammy and Pappy Bausinger and his Uncle Mike.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God in loving and living memory of Susie Hutchinson and David Hutchinson by their family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

Bible Study and fellowship begins this Wednesday at 7:00pm. All are invited!

Messiah Lutheran Preschool is now accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 school year. Registration forms are also available in the church office. *Since space is limited early registration is encouraged. Thank you*

Sewing is underway for our "School Kits for Lutheran World Relief" project. It's time to get sewing so that they are ready in time for the older class of kids to add the cords during Bible School week. Fabric pieces along with instructions on how to sew the backpacks - are now available at the church office or in the narthex, and new colors will be coming soon! ***And ... for those of you who do not sew but would like to help, we have plenty of jobs for you, too!*** Call Sally Congdon at 570-547-6193 or Kathy Wither at 570-651-2802 for more information.

Lutheran World Relief School Kits "Sew-A-Sack" Event, will be **Wednesday, April 3, 9 a.m.-???** You may still sew at home, but we thought it would be fun to host a "sew-a-thon" during which we will enjoy a morning of fellowship with one another as we work together to sew the backpacks needed for the school kits. ***Can't sew, or don't have a machine? No problem!*** We can put you to work marking fabric, cutting, pinning, and ironing hems (it's easy and we'll show you how). At noon, we will share conversation over a light lunch. We will need the use of some sewing tools if you've any to share (or to bring for your own use). A sign-up sheet has been placed in the narthex. If you can attend, please sign up and indicate whether or not you will join us for lunch along with which items you can bring.

Join us for a fun time ... we guarantee "we will keep you in stitches!"

Call Sally Congdon at 570-547-6193 or Kathy Wither at 570-651-2802 for more information.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING
JARED GIST, ORGANIST

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It's Not Over Yet

When you think back over your favorite books, do you remember the endings? If the story leads to a satisfying conclusion, even if the plot twists and turns, the writer keeps our attention. When we commit to a book, we put a lot of faith in the author to tell a good story and to wrap up their tale in a way that makes sense. When the ending is unclear or unbelievable, we wish we hadn't invested so much time in their book.

When Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices to Jesus' tomb, they thought they knew the ending of his story. Jesus' death on the cross brought his ministry to an abrupt conclusion. There was nothing left to do but show their devotion by anointing him with spices. How surprised the women must have been to hear that Jesus' story hadn't ended after all! He had been raised. He was going ahead of his followers to Galilee. They would see him again!

To us, this story of Jesus' resurrection is familiar, so we hear it as good news. For the women, though, it was terrifying. This wasn't how they expected Jesus' story to turn out. They had seen him die on the cross, and now they were being told he was alive? They didn't know what to make of this twist in Jesus' story. They were so afraid that they fled.

The women ran away because they were shocked when the story didn't turn out the way they expected. But soon they would learn that this was a *happy* ending: Where they had seen death, God made a way for new life! What seemed like the conclusion was actually a beginning. It was the dawn of a new day, a resurrection day. As followers of Jesus, we don't know what our future holds or how our stories will end, but we can trust that Jesus is alive. He goes ahead of us, leading us into a future full of God's love and grace.

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