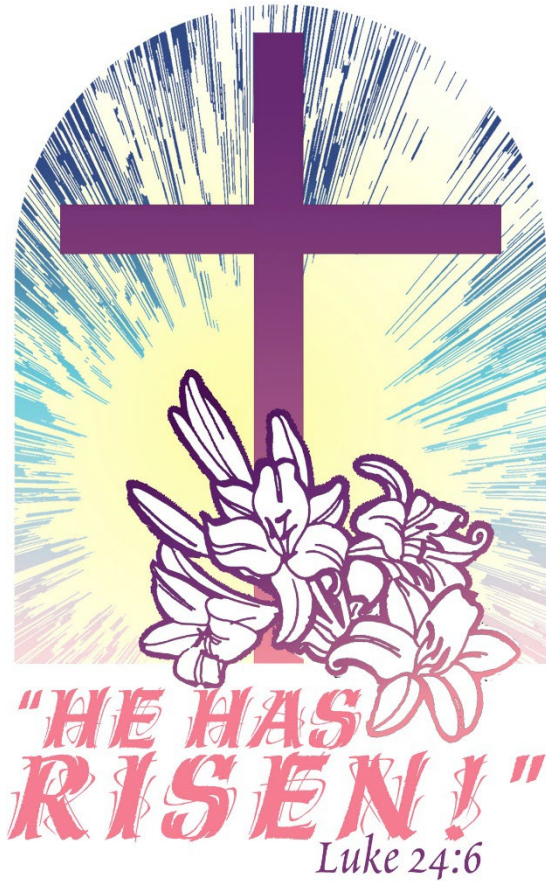


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

The Resurrection of Our Lord  
Easter Day

April 20, 2025



28

**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

*"The last enemy to be destroyed is death," Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDES**

***Jesus Lives! Sing an Alleluia!*..... Deborah Govenor**

*Choir*

***Ringing Victoriously!*..... Michael Mazzatenta**

*Bell Choir*

*Stand*

*The congregation turns to face the processional cross.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

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

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n-ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

**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.

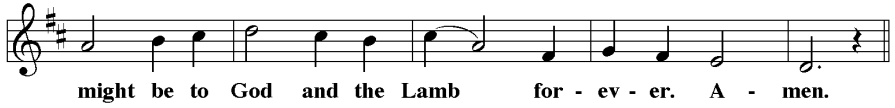
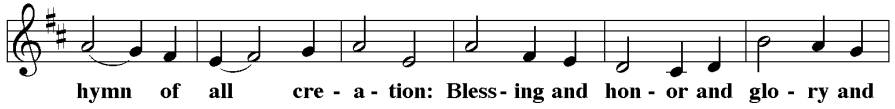
**C:** And also with you.

**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



**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: Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*

**A:** A Reading from Acts:

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to the people: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

<sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

**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.*



<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the  
righteous:**

**"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD. R**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation. R**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

*Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.*

**A:** A Reading from First Corinthians:

<sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup> for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

**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: Luke 24:1-12**

*Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty fourth chapter.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup> Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

**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

**SERMON**.....**Pastor Amme**

Stand



**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done .....LBW 135**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's  
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst, but Christ their le - gions  
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, he ris - es glo - rious  
 4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell; the bars from heav'n's high  
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909  
 Music: VICTORY, Giovanni P. da Palestrina, 1525–1594, adapt.

**NICENE CREED**

**C** 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:** God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each petition:*

**P:** God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P:** We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**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**

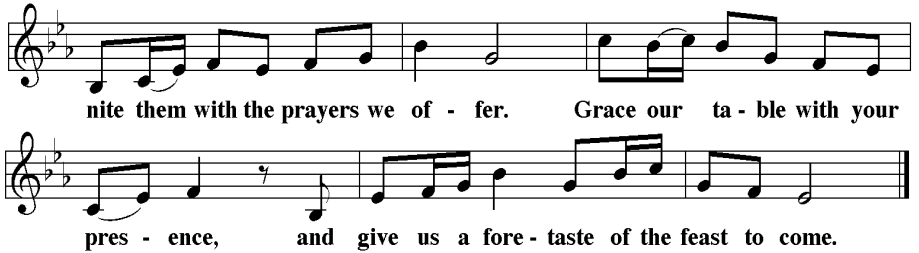
***Glorious, Risen Christ!* ..... **Lloyd Larson****

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY**

*As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung*

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

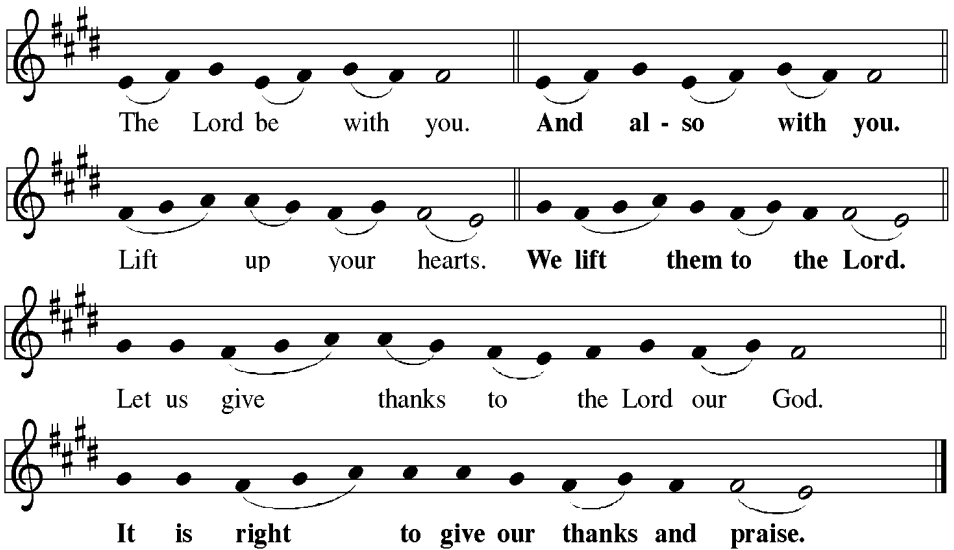
**OFFERING PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray.

**C** Risen One,

you have gathered us around your table of grace  
along with these gifts we bring.  
Come among us again,  
breathe your life into us,  
and enliven us with this meal,  
that we may live as your risen body in the world.  
Amen.

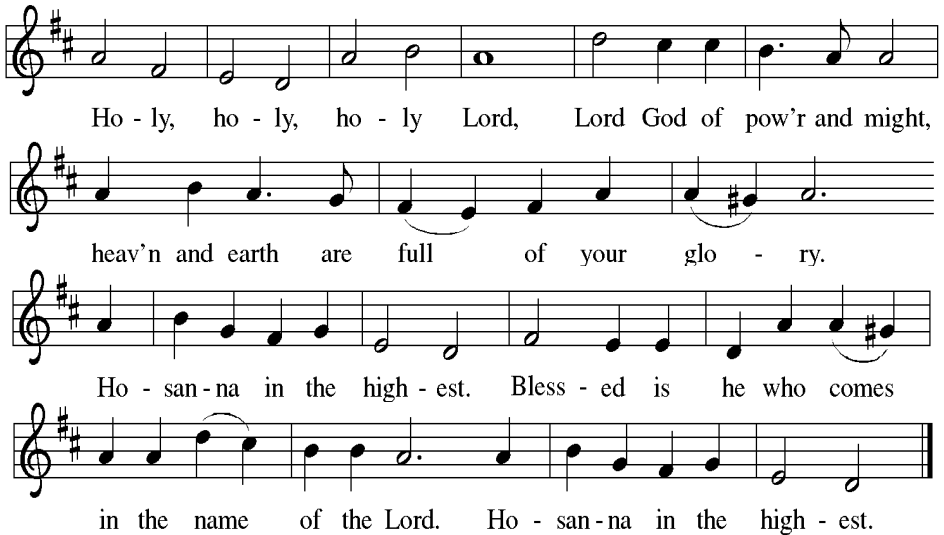
**GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**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 - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 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.

**EUCCHARISTIC 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**: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

**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.

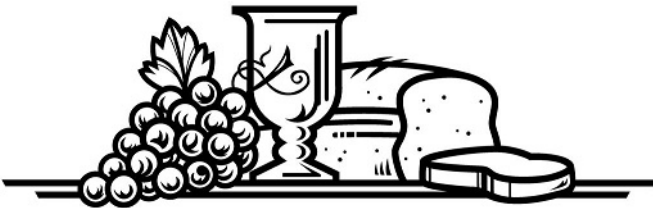
*Sit*

**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**



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
 2 Praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his  
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread  
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide  
 sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go  
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his pier - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
 hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;  
 you have conquered in the fight,  
 you have brought us life and light.  
 Alleluia!

7 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!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
 now no more the grave enthrall;  
 you have opened paradise,  
 and your saints in you shall rise.  
 Alleluia!

8 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!

Text: office hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-1868, alt.  
 Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

*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.

Living One,  
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
sing of your glory,  
and proclaim your risen life  
to a wounded and weary world.

**C**: **Amen**

*SENDING*

**BLESSING**

**P**: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C**: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**P**: The triune God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,  
light your way with resurrection dawn,  
now and always.

**C**: **Amen**

*The congregation turns to face the processional cross as it passes.*



**SENDING HYMN**

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



1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!  
 2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;  
 3 Christ is ris - en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay  
 4 Christ is ris - en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall;



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
 through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turs to life once more;  
 now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.  
 be we Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
 death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
 See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;  
 All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow-ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
 an - gels on his steps at-tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.  
 he was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.



*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
 Music: MORGENTHAU, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## DISMISSAL

**A:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C:** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**A:** Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

## POSTLUDE

### SERVICE ASSISTANTS

**Ushers:** Charles Luppert, Larry & Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assistant:** Susan Bryan

**Comm. Asst.:** Sherri Holtzman; **Acolyte/Crucifer:** Dylan Sherman

**Torchbearers:** Jordan Morris, Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower; **Greeters/Presenters:** Fred and Meg Harbaugh

**Cantor:** Carol Waltz; **Flower Delivery:** Susan Bryan

### IN BLESSED MEMORY

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of William and Jean Reasnor's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by John and Brett Reasner, Ronda Hopkins and Raven Cooley.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Kirstin Gist's 34<sup>th</sup> birthday by her husband and family.

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

**The Sanctuary Lamp** burns in memory of Lee Waltz's birthday on April 25<sup>th</sup> by his 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 Wednesday, April 23 at 7:00pm. All are invited!**

**Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 20.**

**Put Saturday, April 26 (6:00 p.m.)** on your calendar for **TRIVIA NIGHT** in Shaheen Hall, with George Jansson (we hope!) as our Quizmaster. Registration is \$8.00 per person; \$15.00 per couple to benefit Messiah Pre-School's Scholarship Fund. Bring food to share; pizza and beverages will be provided. Tables of six will compete for the evening's championship ... *may the best wits win!*

**LIVE STREAM OPERATORS NEEDED!** We are currently in need of a few more adults to facilitate the broadcast. Training will be provided. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

**Sunday - May 4** The choir is inviting you to raise your voice with ours in an anthem about God's unending love for us. The anthem is based on "Amazing Grace" and is easy to learn. If you like to sing and would consider joining us, come to rehearsal: Sunday, April 27, following worship in the choir loft; Thursday, May 1, at 7 PM in the music room or Sunday, May 4, before worship at 8:45 in the choir loft. *We hope you will add your voice to our praise.*

**Volunteers are needed to help with the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Kids in Mission.** *If you are able to help, please contact Kathryn Pratt as soon as possible to let her know. Watch for more information to come!*

### **Lutheran World Relief School Kits**

More fabric has been marked and cut. Fabric pieces as well as instruction sheets are available in the narthex or in the church office for those who wish to help by sewing at home ... either by simply sewing a hem around the edges or by sewing a complete bag. **We do plan to host another sew-a-thon this spring.** Having the edges sewn makes it so much easier and quicker to complete an entire bag ... *thank you to all who have been helping at home with this important prep step!*

**Questions?? Call Sally Congdon at 570-547-6193 or Kathy Wither at 570-651-2802**

## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

(570) 326-9171 | [www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org)

### Memory and Hope

Of all the Sundays for Jesus to be absent from the gospel story! How can he be missing on Easter? Go figure.

Since Jesus is nowhere to be found, the women who go to the tomb have no evidence of the resurrection but only the testimony of two mysterious figures: “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again” (Luke 24:5-7).

And they remembered.

The women’s memory is more than simple recall. Their sudden recollection of Jesus’ prophecy implies a deeper level of comprehension. And with new insight into the bewildering events they have witnessed comes a stirring of hope for what is to come.

The Akan people of Ghana in West Africa give us the wisdom of *sankofa*, the principle that by reaching back, we may move forward.

The *sankofa* proverb teaches, “It is not taboo to go back and fetch what you forgot.” We face the future by grasping the past.

That is a good way to describe Christians’ confession of faith. We are all like the women at the tomb on Easter morning. We have no evidence of the resurrection, but only the testimony we have received from others, all the storytellers and saints throughout the generations. Recalling their witness, we proclaim the Easter promise again today. Memory and hope go hand in hand.

So remember, beloved. Remember: where even two or three of you are gathered, the living Christ will be there with you. Remember: blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Remember: if Christ has gone to prepare a place for you, he will come again and take you to himself, so that where he is, there you may be also.

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